

TITLE 54
PROFESSIONS, VOCATIONS, AND BUSINESSES

CHAPTER 59
NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR LICENSING AND NATUROPATH REGISTRATION

54-5901. DECLARATION OF POLICY. (1) The legislature finds and declares that the licensing of naturopathic doctors and the registration of lay naturopaths will improve access to natural health care for Idahoans and promote the health of all Idahoans, including the underserved population. The licensing of naturopathic doctors and registration of lay naturopaths will promote the public health interest by aiding in the delivery of naturopathic medical services of high quality to the people of Idaho. To fulfill these purposes, this chapter provides for the optional licensure of naturopathic doctors as well as for the optional registration of laypersons who are naturopaths.

(2) This chapter shall not restrict unlicensed practice lawfully provided pursuant to section [54-1804](#)(1)(1), Idaho Code.

[54-5901, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 636.]

54-5902. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Idaho board of naturopathic health care.

(2) "License" means a license to practice as a licensed naturopathic doctor.

(3) "Licensed naturopathic doctor" means an individual licensed as a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, doctor of podiatric medicine, doctor of chiropractic, doctor of dental medicine, or doctor of nursing practice who has obtained an approved naturopathic doctoral degree, as set forth in rule, and who voluntarily elects to seek and receives licensure under this chapter to practice naturopathic health care in Idaho.

(4) "Minor procedure" means the use of operative, electrical, or other methods for repair and care incidental to superficial lacerations, abrasions, superficial lesions, the removal of foreign bodies located in the superficial tissues, and the use of antiseptics and local topical anesthetics in connection with such methods.

(5) "Naturopathic health care" means the delivery of a distinct primary health care emphasizing prevention, treatment, and optimal health using therapeutic methods and substances that encourage an individual's inherent self-healing process by a naturopathic practitioner.

[54-5902, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 636.]

54-5903. BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC HEALTH CARE CREATED -- MEMBER APPOINTMENT -- TERMS. (1) The Idaho board of naturopathic health care is hereby created in the division of occupational and professional licenses. The board shall consist of five (5) members.

(a) For the initial board:

(i) One (1) member shall be a public member;

(ii) One (1) member shall be either a doctor of osteopathy or a doctor of medicine who is not licensed under this chapter but who is licensed pursuant to [chapter 18, title 54](#), Idaho Code;

(iii) Two (2) members shall be eligible for licensure under this chapter; and

(iv) One (1) member shall be eligible for registration as a naturopath under this chapter.

(b) After the initial board:

(i) One (1) member shall be a public member;

(ii) One (1) member shall be either a doctor of osteopathy or a doctor of medicine who is not licensed under this chapter but who is licensed pursuant to [chapter 18, title 54](#), Idaho Code;

(iii) Two (2) members shall be licensed under this chapter; and

(iv) One (1) member shall be registered under this chapter.

(2) The governor shall appoint all members of the board. Of the initial members, two (2) shall be appointed for four (4) year terms and three (3) shall be appointed for three (3) year terms. After the initial appointments, all terms of appointment shall be for four (4) years. Each member shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualified. No member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms.

(3) The board shall, within thirty (30) days after its appointment, and at least annually thereafter, hold a meeting and elect a chair and a vice chair and may hold additional meetings at the call of the chair or at the written request of any two (2) members of the board. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum. The vote of a majority of members present at a meeting wherein a quorum is present shall determine the action of the board. The chair and vice chair shall each serve for a two (2) year term. No chair or vice chair may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

(4) In the event of the death, resignation, or removal of any board member before the expiration of the term to which the member is appointed, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.

(5) Board members shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(6) Each member of the board shall be compensated as provided in section [59-509](#)(p), Idaho Code.

[54-5903, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 637.]

54-5904. BOARD DUTIES AND POWERS. The board shall have the authority and the responsibility to:

(1) By July 1, 2023, in accordance with this chapter and by using the American naturopathic medical certification board as the primary resource, determine the qualifications needed by each person applying for licensure pursuant to this chapter and, in addition to the requirements of this chapter, define by rule the criteria for determining the appropriate scope of practice for each individual seeking licensure; provided, however, the board may authorize a scope of practice only on an individual basis for each individual seeking licensure. The board may modify the authorized scope of practice based on its assessment of an individual's education, training, and experience;

(2) Consult with the American naturopathic medical certification board to define and set by rule any additional qualifications for licensure that are consistent with this chapter. Any such qualifications shall be in addition to those required by this chapter;

(3) Authorize prescriptive rights or surgical authority only for an applicant who demonstrates sufficient education and training in accordance with an active Idaho license in good standing pursuant to section [54-5905](#)(1), Idaho Code. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection,

all licensees shall be permitted by the board to practice according to the scope of practice pursuant to section [54-5906](#), Idaho Code;

(4) Establish, pursuant to [chapter 52, title 67](#), Idaho Code, any such rules consistent with this chapter as are necessary for the administration of this chapter, including but not limited to rules pertaining to discipline, continuing education, and standards for professional conduct that reflect current practice standards and promote inclusion of evidence-based innovations and advances in naturopathic health care;

(5) Conduct investigations and examinations and hold hearings;

(6) Collect fees and other funds only to the extent necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. All fees received under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid to the division of occupational and professional licenses and deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the occupational licenses fund, and all costs and expenses incurred under the provisions of this chapter shall be a charge against and paid from said fund;

(7) Conduct legal proceedings, including those regarding contracts and litigation;

(8) Provide such other services and perform such other functions as are necessary and desirable to fulfill its purposes; and

(9) Establish rules that provide for naturopaths to practice in Idaho through registration rather than licensure. In order to protect public health, the scope of practice for a registered naturopath shall be no broader than as provided for in section [54-1804](#)(1)(1), Idaho Code.

(a) The board shall establish a method of registration and a reasonable fee for registration and collect such fee for registration.

(b) No registration shall be granted until the board has approved a reasonable fee and a method of collecting such fee for registration.

[54-5904, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 637.]

54-5905. VOLUNTARY NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR LICENSURE -- REQUIREMENTS -- LIMITATIONS. (1) An applicant shall be qualified for voluntary licensure as a naturopathic doctor pursuant to this chapter if such applicant:

(a) Possesses current, valid, and unrestricted licensure in any state, district, or territory of the United States in at least one (1) of the following medical professions:

(i) Medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy;

(ii) Podiatrist;

(iii) Dentist;

(iv) Chiropractor, if such applicant possesses an accredited doctoral degree in chiropractic medicine as required pursuant to [chapter 7, title 54](#), Idaho Code; or

(v) Nurse, if such applicant possesses a level of training and education equivalent to an advanced practice registered nurse pursuant to [chapter 14, title 54](#), Idaho Code, and has achieved an accredited doctorate degree in nursing;

(b) Has obtained a certificate of satisfactory completion of a naturopathic doctor curriculum consisting of at least one hundred sixty (160) credit hours from an institution accredited by an accreditation agency approved by the United States department of education;

(c) Has not pled guilty to or been convicted of a crime that is deemed relevant in accordance with section [67-9411](#)(1), Idaho Code, unless such applicant demonstrates that he has been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust; and

- (d) Completes any one (1) of the following:
- (i) At least four (4) years of experience in the practice of naturopathic health care in Idaho that is acceptable to the board; provided, however, a practitioner who has at least two (2) years of naturopathic health care experience that is acceptable to the board and that occurred on or before July 1, 2024, shall satisfy the requirements of this paragraph;
 - (ii) Passage of an Idaho state examination proving minimum competency and skills, to be developed and approved by the board by rule and the American naturopathic medical certification board pursuant to this chapter; or
 - (iii) Passage of any national board examination that certifies the individual has achieved minimum competency and skills in the practice of naturopathic health care as approved by the board by rule.
- (2) A license issued under this chapter shall:
- (a) Be issued in the name of the licensed naturopathic doctor;
 - (b) State the issue and expiration date; and
 - (c) Always be displayed in a conspicuous manner in the place of business or employment of the licensee.
- (3) A licensed naturopathic doctor may also use the title "licensed doctor of natural health" or "licensed naturopathic practitioner."
- (4) All applications for licensing shall be reviewed and approved by the board on an individual basis.
- (5) A person who is not licensed pursuant to this chapter shall not:
- (a) Hold himself out as a naturopathic doctor licensed under this chapter;
 - (b) Use or advertise using the title of licensed naturopathic doctor (LND), licensed naturopathic practitioner (LNP), or any variant thereof; or
 - (c) Use any words, abbreviations, figures, configuration of letters, titles, signs, cards, or devices tending to imply that the person is a naturopathic doctor licensed in the state of Idaho.
- (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (5) of this section, a person who is a licensed naturopathic medical doctor pursuant to [chapter 51, title 54](#), Idaho Code, may use the title "licensed naturopathic doctor."
- (7) No license shall be issued by the board until the board has finalized and approved licensure requirements by rule as provided by this chapter and the legislature has approved all rules governing licensure adopted by the board.

[54-5905, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 638; am. 2024, ch. 240, sec. 1, p. 858.]

54-5906. LICENSED NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS -- SCOPE OF PRACTICE. (1) A naturopathic doctor licensed pursuant to this chapter may engage only in the scope of practice provided for in this section.

(2) A person who does not possess a current, valid, and unrestricted license pursuant to [title 54](#), Idaho Code, that permits such person to prescribe legend drugs or to perform minor procedures shall not be authorized to do so under a license issued pursuant to this chapter.

(3) If a licensed naturopathic doctor receives licensure in Idaho to practice any profession identified in section [54-5905](#)(1)(a), Idaho Code, then the board may allow the licensed naturopathic doctor to incorporate any additional scope of practice provided for in this section or prescriptive

rights as provided for in section [54-5907](#), Idaho Code. However, the board shall not approve an expanded scope of practice pursuant to this subsection if such additional licensure does not authorize such scope of practice.

(4) (a) The scope of practice for a licensed naturopathic doctor shall be established by rule of the board and shall be limited to the following:

(i) Diagnosis and treatment of conditions affecting the human body, including vitamins, minerals, or other natural methods;

(ii) Diagnosis and care of patients using a system of practice that bases treatment of physiological functions and abnormal conditions on natural laws governing the human body, including utilizing physiological, psychological, and mechanical methods, electromagnetism, therapeutic exercise, homeopathic medicine, decompression, traction, biofeedback, electrotherapy, physiotherapy, mechanotherapy, naturopathic corrections, neurofeedback, natural methods and substances that support hormonal and cellular health, phytotherapy, and food and herb therapies; and

(iii) Physical examination procedures and laboratory procedures, including ordering imaging and diagnostic tests for purposes of diagnosis.

(b) Other practices that are consistent with this chapter may be allowed pursuant to the rules of the board.

(5) Minor procedures using local anesthetics may be performed only if a licensed naturopathic doctor has had postgraduate surgical training in residency, possesses relevant board certification, is licensed under another chapter of [title 54](#), Idaho Code, that authorizes minor procedures, and is expressly authorized by the board to perform minor procedures.

(6) No licensed naturopathic doctor shall perform minor procedures, prescribe legend drugs, or perform any other action unless otherwise expressly authorized by this chapter and such action is pursuant to the rules of the board.

[54-5906, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 639.]

54-5907. PRESCRIPTIVE RIGHTS. (1) Licensed naturopathic doctors may be granted certain prescriptive rights as part of their scope of practice. However, prescriptive rights for licensed naturopathic doctors shall be granted and maintained only if the licensed naturopathic doctor:

(a) Currently possesses and maintains a full federal drug enforcement agency (DEA) registration that is in good standing prior to seeking prescriptive rights under his license;

(b) Has completed at least forty-five (45) credit hours of pharmacology from an institution accredited by the United States department of education; and

(c) Possesses a current, valid, and unrestricted license issued pursuant to [title 54](#), Idaho Code, that permits such person to prescribe legend drugs.

(2) Licensed naturopathic doctors' individual prescriptive rights pursuant to this section shall be limited to all medications, treatments, or any other item to be prescribed as outlined and approved by the board. However, the board shall not approve any medication, treatment, or any other similar item that is not approved by the formulary committee.

(3) This section shall not and is not intended to authorize group licensure for all individuals licensed under this chapter. Each licensed naturopathic doctor must, on an individual basis, receive approval from the board to prescribe legend drugs as a licensed naturopathic doctor.

(4) The board, by rule, shall ensure that any approval of a licensed naturopathic doctor's request to prescribe as a licensed naturopathic doctor does not exceed the prescriptive scope the licensed naturopathic doctor previously possessed prior to licensure under this chapter.

[54-5907, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 640.]

54-5908. REGISTERED NATUROPATHS. (1) Naturopaths who are not licensed naturopathic doctors may, but shall not be required to, obtain registration under the provisions of this chapter and pursuant to the rules of the board.

(2) The scope of practice for a registered naturopath under this chapter shall be limited to practices permitted pursuant to section [54-1804](#)(1)(1), Idaho Code.

[54-5908, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 640.]

54-5909. LICENSE AND REGISTRATION ISSUANCE, REVOCATION, AND RENEWAL. (1) The board shall issue and renew licenses or issue and renew registrations to persons who have qualified for such license or registration pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The board may deny an application for licensure or registration, revoke a license or registration, or place restrictions on a license or registration if the holder of such license or registration or applicant for licensure or registration:

(a) Is a current health care professional whose licensure is or previously has been revoked, suspended, placed on probation, reprimanded, limited, restricted, or conditioned, or if such person has been or is currently subject to disciplinary action with respect to professional licensure;

(b) Engages in conduct prohibited by this chapter;

(c) Obtains or attempts to obtain the issuance or renewal of a license or registration pursuant to this chapter by means of fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts;

(d) Has at any time failed to maintain the confidentiality of records or other information pertaining to an identifiable client, except as required or authorized by law;

(e) Engages in any conduct that constitutes an abuse or exploitation of a client arising out of the trust and confidence placed in the licensed naturopathic doctor or registered naturopath by the client;

(f) Fails to, or has previously failed to, adhere to the limitations set forth in section [54-1804](#)(1)(1), Idaho Code;

(g) Is convicted of, or in the past was convicted of, a crime deemed relevant in accordance with section [67-9411](#)(1), Idaho Code;

(h) Engages in conduct that violates the provisions of this chapter, the rules of the board, or the terms of any license or registration issued by the board; or

(i) Fails to comply with a board order entered in any disciplinary matter.

(3) In making a determination under subsection (2) of this section, the board shall take into consideration the rehabilitation of the applicant and other mitigating circumstances.

(4) An applicant for a license or registration under this chapter shall submit any fee established pursuant to board rules.

(5) All licenses issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to biennial renewal and shall expire unless renewed in the manner prescribed by the board. License renewal and reinstatement shall be in accordance with section [67-2614](#), Idaho Code.

[54-5909, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 641; am. 2024, ch. 86, sec. 54, p. 421.]

54-5910. IMMUNITY OF BOARD MEMBERS AND PERSONS REPORTING INFORMATION TO BOARD. Any member or agent of the board, any member who has served on the board, or any person under oath shall not be subject to a civil action for damages as a result of reporting information in good faith, without fraud or malice, relating to alleged violations or vindictive violations of this chapter or board rules.

[54-5910, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 641.]

54-5911. OBSERVATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LAW. Each individual licensed or registered under this chapter shall observe and be subject to all state, federal, and municipal regulations relating to the control of contagious and infectious diseases and all matters pertaining to public health. Failure to comply with these requirements shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and the laws of the state of Idaho.

[54-5911, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 641.]

54-5912. FORMULARY COMMITTEE. (1) The board shall appoint a formulary committee consisting of one (1) member who is licensed under [chapter 18, title 54](#), Idaho Code, to practice in Idaho as a pharmacist (PharmD), two (2) members who are either a doctor of osteopathy or a doctor of medicine and who are not licensed under this chapter but are licensed pursuant to Idaho Code, and two (2) members who are licensed under this chapter and possess full federal drug enforcement agency (DEA) registration in good standing.

(2) All members of the formulary committee shall possess a valid and active DEA number and be authorized to prescribe within the United States.

(3) Initially, three (3) members shall serve for three (3) years and two (2) members shall serve for two (2) years. After the initial appointments, all terms of appointment shall be for three (3) years. No member may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

(4) The formulary committee shall act in an advisory role in evaluating prescriptive authority for applicants or other similar issues as called upon by the board. However, the formulary committee shall first approve the scope of prescriptive rights that individuals licensed under this chapter may use before the board approves the scope of prescriptive rights.

[54-5912, added 2022, ch. 194, sec. 1, p. 642.]