GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

HOUSE BILL 277
Senate Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 6/22/17
Senate Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 6/12/18

Short Title: Naturopathic Study. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 8, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A WORK GROUP TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
APPROPRIATE OVERSIGHT AND REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE OF
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE IN NORTH CAROLINA AND TO REPORT TO THE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) Naturopathic medicine is a distinct health care profession that
affects the public health, safety, and welfare of the State's residents. Certification of professionals
practicing naturopathic medicine will aid in protecting citizens from deception, fraud, and
damage to their health status. On or before September 15, 2018, the Secretary of the Department
of Health and Human Services, or the Secretary's designee, shall convene a work group to study
the delivery of naturopathic medicine in North Carolina. The work group shall be comprised of
the following individuals: two naturopathic doctors, selected by the North Carolina Association
of Naturopathic Physicians; one medical doctor, who has knowledge of the practice of
naturopathic medicine, selected by the North Carolina Medical Society; the chairperson of the
North Carolina Medical Board, or the chairperson's designee; and the Secretary of the
Department of Health and Human Services, or the Secretary's designee.

SECTION 1.(b) The work group shall develop recommendations necessary to
provide appropriate oversight and regulation of naturopathic medicine in the State of North
Carolina. The work group's recommendations shall include at least the following:

(1) Identification of an approved program of study of naturopathic medicine that
provides graduate-level, full-time didactic and supervised clinical training in
naturopathic medicine and is accredited by the Council on Naturopathic
Medical Education or an equivalent federally recognized accrediting body for
the naturopathic medical profession. The program must be offered by an
institution of higher education and lead to a degree as a Doctor of Naturopathic
Medicine, or equivalent.

(2) A scope of practice for naturopathic doctors, including the extent of their
responsibilities as licensed health care professionals; the extent of their ability
to diagnose and treat individuals in accordance with the method, thought, and
practice of naturopathic medicine and use of diagnostic techniques and
therapies; and their prescriptive authority.

(3) Whether the practice of naturopathic medicine should constitute the practice
of medicine or surgery as defined in Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.
SECTION 1.(c) The work group shall report findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before January 15, 2019. The report shall include findings and recommendations on the topics outlined in this section and other issues necessary to provide for the appropriate oversight and regulation of the practice of naturopathic medicine in North Carolina. Additionally, the report shall also include recommendations on appropriate fees for application, examination, certification, renewals, and late renewals, as appropriate, to cover the costs associated with oversight.

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.