SENATE BILL 258

Short Title: Enact Naturopathic Doctors Certification Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Krawiec, Tillman, Tucker (Primary Sponsors); Barefoot, Chaudhuri, Ford, Foushee, Lowe, Pate, Rabin, Robinson, Sanderson, Van Duyn, and Woodard.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 15, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 43.
"Naturopathic Doctors.

§ 90-730. Short title. This Article may be cited as the "North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Act."

§ 90-731. Intent; purpose. (a) Intent. – The General Assembly finds that a significant number of residents of the State of North Carolina choose complementary and alternative health care and declares that naturopathic medicine is a distinct health care profession that affects the public health, safety, and welfare and provides for choices in health care. The General Assembly concludes that certification is in the current interest of North Carolina citizens to aid in protecting citizens from deception, fraud, and damage to their health status. Certification can provide a process in which citizens may more confidently rely on the level of skill, education, and competency possessed by certified persons.

(b) Purpose. – The purpose of this Article is to provide standards for the certification of naturopathic doctors desiring to practice naturopathic medicine in this State and to ensure the maintenance of professional competence and acceptable standards of practice.

§ 90-732. Definitions. The following definitions apply in this Article:

(1) Approved program of naturopathic medicine. – A program that meets all of the following conditions:

a. A program that provides graduate-level, full-time didactic and supervised clinical training in naturopathic medicine that is accredited, or has achieved candidacy status for accreditation, by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education or an equivalent federally recognized accrediting body for the naturopathic medical profession recognized by the North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board; or if the program existed prior to the existence of the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education, the program must (i) have provided graduate-level, full-time didactic and supervised clinical training in naturopathic...
medicine for a duration of not less than 132 weeks and required completion within a period of not less than 35 months; (ii) be recognized as a reputable program by, and in good standing with, the North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board; and (iii) if the program is still in existence, be currently accredited, or have achieved candidacy status for accreditation, by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education or an equivalent federally recognized accrediting body for the naturopathic medical profession recognized by the North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board.

b. A program that is offered by an institution of higher education that is accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting body recognized by the United States Secretary of Education.

c. If the program is offered in the United States, a program that awards the degree of Doctor of Naturopathy or Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine. If the program is offered in Canada, a program that awards the degree or diploma of Doctor of Naturopathy or Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine and is offered by an institution of higher education that has provincial approval for participation in government-funded student aid programs.

d. A program that has been approved by the North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board to meet the standards established by its rules.

(2) Board. – The North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board.

(3) Criminal history. – A history of conviction, or of having pled guilty or no contest to a State or federal crime, whether a misdemeanor or felony.

(4) Integrative medicine. – As defined in G.S. 90-1.1.

(5) Natural medicines. – Any herbal, nutritional, supplemental, homeopathic, or other nonprescription remedies.

(6) Naturopathic doctor. – A person certified to practice naturopathic medicine under this Article.

(7) Naturopathic medicine. – A system of natural health care that employs diagnosis and treatment using diagnostic techniques and natural therapies for the promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health and the prevention of disease, including all of the following:

a. The administration or provision of any of the following for preventive and therapeutic purposes: natural medicines, natural therapies, natural topical medicines, hydrotherapy, dietary therapy, and naturopathic physical medicine.

b. The use of diagnostic procedures, including physical and orificial examination, but excluding endoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and colonoscopy.

c. The ordering, performing, and interpretation of laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging.

(8) Naturopathic physical medicine. – The manual use of massage, stretching, resistance, or naturopathic manipulation.

"§ 90-733. Practice of naturopathic medicine; scope of practice.

(a) Practice of Naturopathic Medicine. – A naturopathic doctor is a certified health care provider having the same responsibilities as other licensed, certified, or registered health care providers regarding public health laws, reportable diseases and conditions, communicable disease control and prevention, and the recording of vital statistics. In diagnosing and treating an individual, a naturopathic doctor may employ the following therapies, modalities, procedures, or remedies consistent with naturopathic education and training:
(1) Dispense, administer, order, and advise the use of natural remedies derived from or substantially similar in molecular structure or function to natural sources for preventive and therapeutic purposes, including food, extracts of food, nutraceuticals, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, enzymes, botanicals and their extracts, homeopathic remedies prepared according to the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States, and all dietary supplements and nonprescription drugs as defined by the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 301, et seq.

(2) Order and perform physical examinations and physiological function tests.

(3) Order, perform, and interpret laboratory tests, including performing waived tests as defined by the United States Food and Drug Administration Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1998 (CLIA), including obtaining specimens to assess and treat disease.

(4) Order diagnostic imaging, including X-ray, MRI, CT scan, ultrasound, mammogram, and bone densitometry to be conducted and interpreted by an appropriately licensed, registered, or certified health care professional. This excludes electrocardiograms, echocardiograms, electroencephalograms, and nuclear imaging which should be ordered, conducted, and interpreted by a physician licensed under Article 1 of this Chapter.

(5) Perform hot or cold hydrotherapy, naturopathic physical medicine, electromagnetic therapy, and therapeutic exercise.

(6) Perform health education and health counseling, including dietary and lifestyle counseling.

(7) Utilize routes of administration for substances, including oral, nasal, auricular, ocular, rectal, vaginal, and transdermal.

(8) Perform care incidental to superficial lacerations and abrasions, including the application of topical and local anesthetics and antimicrobials.

(9) Remove foreign bodies located in the superficial tissues.

(b) Prohibitions. – A naturopathic doctor may practice only within the scope of practice authorized in subsection (a) of this section. A naturopathic doctor may not practice as any other health care professional licensed, certified, or registered under another Article of this Chapter unless otherwise licensed, certified, or registered by this State to do so. A naturopathic doctor may not perform any of the following functions unless otherwise licensed by this State to do so:

(1) Prescribe, dispense, or administer any legend drug, except as authorized by this Article.

(2) Use general or spinal anesthetics.

(3) Perform surgical procedures using a laser device.

(4) Perform surgical procedures beyond superficial tissue.

(5) Administer ionizing radioactive substances for therapeutic purposes.

§ 90-734. Certification required; exemptions.
(a) Certification Required. – No person shall practice, attempt to practice, or claim to practice naturopathic medicine unless the person has been certified under the provisions of this Article.

(b) Use of Titles. – Only persons certified under this Article may use the titles "Naturopathic Doctor," "Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine," "Doctor of Naturopathy," "Naturopathic Medicine," "Naturopath," "Certified Naturopathic Doctor," or the abbreviations "N.D.,” "ND,” or any other titles, words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the individual is a certified naturopathic doctor unless the individual has been certified as a naturopathic doctor under this Article.

(c) Exemptions. – Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prohibit or affect any of the following:
The practice of a profession by an individual who is licensed, certified, or registered under other laws of this State and is performing services within the authorized scope of practice.

The practice of naturopathic medicine by a person employed by the federal government while the person is engaged in the performance of duties prescribed by laws and regulations of the United States.

A person rendering aid in an emergency situation when no fee or other compensation for the service is received.

The practice of naturopathic medicine by a naturopathic doctor duly licensed, certified, or registered in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia when called into this State to consult with a licensed, certified, or registered health care provider for a period not to exceed six months.

The practice of naturopathic medicine by students completing a clinical requirement for graduation from an approved program of naturopathic medicine, so long as the practice is performed under the supervision of a physician licensed under Article 1 of this Chapter or a naturopathic doctor certified under this Article and the clinical requirement does not exceed one year.

A person who does not hold himself or herself out to be a naturopathic doctor as described in subsection (b) of this section when furnishing information to customers or selling, administering, or utilizing nutritional supplements, herbs, food, homeopathic preparations, and such physical forces as heat, cold, water, touch, and light at the person’s retail, health spa, or health consulting establishment.

Unlawful Act. – A person who violates this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.


(a) Board. – The North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board is created. The Board consists of seven members serving for staggered terms. The initial Board members shall be appointed on or before January 1, 2018, as follows:

(1) The General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, shall appoint two naturopathic doctors who are certified under this Article. One member shall serve a term of one year, and one member shall serve a term of three years.

(2) The General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall appoint two naturopathic doctors who are certified under this Article. One member shall serve a term of one year, and one member shall serve a term of three years.

(3) The Governor shall appoint two physicians licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, at least one of whom is involved in the practice of integrative medicine or teaches integrative medicine at a medical school. Both of these members shall serve a term of three years.

(4) The Governor shall appoint for a two-year term a public member who is not a licensed, certified, or registered health care professional and is not employed in a health care profession.
Upon the expiration of the terms of the initial Board members, each subsequent member shall be appointed for a term of three years. The term of a member shall begin on January 1 of each year. A member shall serve until the member's successor is appointed. No member shall serve on the Board for more than two consecutive terms.

(b) Vacancies. – A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An appointee to fill a vacancy shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term and until the appointee's successor has been duly appointed.

(c) Removal. – The Board may remove any of its members for neglect of duty, incompetence, or unprofessional conduct. A member subject to disciplinary proceedings as a licensed, certified, or registered health care professional shall be disqualified from participating in the official business of the Board until the charges have been resolved.

(d) General Administration. – A Board member may not receive compensation but may receive reimbursement as provided in G.S. 93B-5. The officers of the Board include a chair, a secretary, and any other officer deemed necessary by the Board to carry out the purposes of this Article. All officers shall be elected annually by the Board at its first meeting held after appointments to the Board are made. The Board shall hold a meeting within 45 days after the appointment of new Board members. All officers shall serve one-year terms and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. No person shall chair the Board for more than five consecutive years. The Board may adopt rules governing the calling, holding, and conducting of regular and special meetings. A majority of Board members constitutes a quorum.

§ 90-736. Powers of the Board.

The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Administer and enforce the provisions of this Article.
(2) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules in the manner prescribed under Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Article.
(3) Establish, examine, and determine the qualifications and fitness of applicants for certification and renewal of certification.
(4) Issue, renew, deny, suspend, or revoke certification and conduct any disciplinary actions authorized by this Article.
(5) Collect fees for certification, certification renewal, and other services deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this Article.
(6) Establish and approve continuing education requirements for persons certified under this Article.
(7) Employ and fix the compensation of personnel that the Board determines is necessary to carry out the provisions of this Article and incur other expenses necessary to perform the duties of the Board.
(8) Adopt a seal containing the name of the Board for use on all certifications and official reports issued by the Board.
(9) Institute corrective measures, as necessary and as permitted by Chapter 93 of the General Statutes, to rehabilitate naturopathic doctors or limit their practice.
(10) Receive complaints and investigate persons engaging in practices that violate the provisions of this Article.

§ 90-737. Qualifications for certification; renewal; reinstatement.

(a) Certification. – Upon application to the Board and payment of the required fees, an applicant may be certified under this Article as a naturopathic doctor if the applicant meets all of the following qualifications and conditions:
(1) Is of good moral and ethical character.
(2) Is a graduate of an approved program of naturopathic medicine as defined in G.S. 90-732.
(3) Meets one, or both, of the following two conditions:
a. Has successfully passed the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX), a competency-based national naturopathic licensing examination administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners or an equivalent successor agency recognized by the Board.

b. Has successfully passed a competency-based state or Canadian province naturopathic licensing examination administered prior to the existence of NPLEX and approved by the Board.

(4) Provides the Board with a list of physicians licensed to practice medicine in this State who have agreed to consult with the applicant and accept referrals from the applicant. The applicant shall also provide the Board with letters of verification from the listed physicians. The list must include physicians with specialties in at least four of the following areas: allergy and immunology, cancer and oncology, cardiology, endocrinology and metabolism, family medicine, gastroenterology, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, and urology.

(5) Submits any other documentation the Board deems necessary to determine the applicant's fitness for certification under this Article. This documentation may include successful completion of a Board-approved jurisprudence examination on State laws and rules related to naturopathic medicine.

(b) Renewal. – A certification expires two years after the date it is issued unless it is renewed. To renew a certification, a licensee shall meet all of the following conditions:

(1) Submit an application for certification renewal.

(2) Pay the required fees.

(3) Complete at least 40 hours of continuing education approved by the Board within the two-year period immediately prior to the renewal date.

Failure to renew a certification within six months of the date the certification expires shall result in automatic forfeiture of the right to practice naturopathic medicine in this State until the certification is reinstated.

(c) Reinstatement. – A certified naturopathic doctor who has allowed the certification to lapse by failure to renew within the time allowed under subsection (b) of this section may apply for reinstatement. The Board may reinstate the applicant's certification if the applicant pays the required fees, furnishes a statement of the reason for failure to apply for renewal before the deadline, and complies with any other requirements established in rules adopted by the Board. If the certification has lapsed for five years or longer, the Board may require the applicant to satisfactorily complete one or more skills assessment or remediation courses approved by the Board or to provide proof of active licensure, certification, or registration within the past five years in another state, district, territory, or Canadian province.

"§ 90-738. Reciprocity.

The Board may grant, upon application and payment of fees, a certification to a person who resides in this State and has been licensed, certified, or registered to practice as a naturopathic doctor in another state, district, territory, or Canadian province if both of the following conditions are met:

(1) The standards for licensure, certification, or registration in the state, district, territory, or province in which the naturopathic doctor is licensed, certified, or registered are substantially equivalent to those provided in this Article.

(2) The applicant provides proof of licensure, certification, or registration in good standing in all states, districts, territories, and provinces in which the applicant has been licensed, certified, or registered.

"§ 90-739. Fees.

The Board may impose the following fees:
Application and examination .......................................................... $200.00
Certification .................................................................................. $600.00
Certification renewal ................................................................. $400.00
Late renewal .................................................................................. $200.00
Reinstatement ............................................................................ $1,000.00
Reasonable charges for duplication services and material.
Criminal history record check fee equal to the amount imposed by the
Department of Justice to conduct the criminal history record check requested by
the Board.

§ 90-740. Disciplinary authority.
(a) Authority. – The Board may impose probationary conditions upon a certified
naturopathic doctor, or it may deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew a certification if
the certified naturopathic doctor or applicant does any of the following:
(1) Engages in any act or practice in violation of any of the provisions of this
Article or of any of the rules adopted by the Board or aids, abets, or assists any
other person in the violation of the provisions of this Article or rules adopted by
the Board.
(2) Gives false information to or withholds information from the Board in
procuring or attempting to procure certification.
(3) Has been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to a crime that indicates that
the person is unfit or incompetent to practice as a naturopathic doctor or that
indicates the person has deceived or defrauded the public. A felony conviction
shall result in the automatic revocation of certification by the Board unless the
Board determines otherwise pursuant to rules adopted by the Board.
(4) Has been declared mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction.
(5) Habitually uses or is addicted to drugs or intoxicating liquors to the extent that
it affects the certified naturopathic doctor's professional competency. If a
certified naturopathic doctor violates this subdivision, the Board may require
the certified naturopathic doctor to undergo a mental or physical examination
by physicians designated by the Board before or after the certified naturopathic
doctor has been charged. The results of the examination shall be admissible as
evidence in a hearing before the Board.
(6) Has demonstrated gross negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the
(7) Has had a health care provider license, certification, or registration denied,
restricted, revoked, or suspended by another state, district, territory, or
province.
(8) Fails to consent to a criminal history record check.
(9) Fails to respond, within a reasonable time, to inquiries from the Board
concerning any matter affecting the individual's certification to practice
naturopathic medicine.
(10) Fails to complete continuing education requirements within the time prescribed.
(b) Hearing. – Denial, refusal to renew, suspension, or revocation of a certification or
imposition of probationary conditions upon a certified naturopathic doctor may be ordered by the
Board after a hearing held in accordance with Article 3A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes
and rules adopted pursuant to this Article. An application may be made to the Board for
reinstatement of a revoked certification if the revocation has been in effect for not less than two
years.
(c) Records. – The Board shall keep a record of its proceedings. The Board shall, in a
closed session, receive evidence regarding the treatment or examination of a patient who has not
expressly or impliedly consented to the public disclosure of the treatment when necessary for the
protection of the rights of the patient or of the accused naturopathic doctor and the full
presentation of relevant evidence. All records, papers, investigative files, investigative reports, and
other documents containing information gathered or received by the Board as a result of
investigations, inquiries, or interviews conducted in connection with an application for
certification, a complaint, or a disciplinary matter are not considered public documents within the
meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

(d) Confidential Information. – The Board may release confidential or nonpublic
information about a certified naturopathic doctor to any health care licensure, certification, or
registration board in this State or another state relating to the issuance, denial, suspension,
revocation, or voluntary surrender of the license, certification, or registration including the reasons
for the action or any investigative report prepared by the Board. The Board shall notify the
naturopathic doctor within 60 days after the information is released. The Board shall furnish to the
naturopathic doctor a summary of the information being released. However, if the naturopathic
doctor requests, in writing, within 30 days after the date of notice, a copy of the information being
released, the Board shall give to the naturopathic doctor a copy of all the information being
released. Notice or copies shall not be provided by the Board if the information relates to an
ongoing criminal investigation by a law enforcement agency or any Department of Health and
Human Services personnel with enforcement or investigative responsibilities.

§ 90-741. Criminal history record check of applicants and certified naturopathic doctors.

(a) Criminal History Record Check. – The Board shall require a criminal history record
check for a person who is either certified as a naturopathic doctor under this Article or applying
for certification as a naturopathic doctor under this Article. The Board is responsible for providing
to the North Carolina Department of Justice the fingerprints of the person to be checked, a form
signed by the person consenting to the criminal record check and the use of fingerprints and other
identifying information required by the State or national repositories, and any additional
information required by the Department of Justice. The Board shall keep all information obtained
pursuant to this section confidential.

(b) Conviction. – If a criminal history record check reveals one or more convictions, the
conviction does not automatically bar certification. The Board shall consider all of the following
factors regarding the conviction:

(1) The level of seriousness of the crime.
(2) The date of the crime.
(3) The age of the person at the time of the conviction.
(4) The circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, if known.
(5) The nexus between the criminal conduct of the person and the job duties of the
   position to be filled.
(6) The person's prison, jail, probation, parole, rehabilitation, and employment
   records since the date the crime was committed.
(7) The subsequent commission of a crime by the person.

(c) Denial of Certification. – If the Board denies, revokes, or suspends a certification based
on information obtained in a criminal history record check, the Board shall disclose to the person
the information contained in the criminal history record check that is relevant to the Board's
actions. The Board may not provide a copy of the criminal history record check to the person. A
person has the right to appear before the Board to appeal the Board's decision. An appearance
before the Board shall constitute an exhaustion of administrative remedies in accordance with
Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

§ 90-742. Reports; immunity from suit.

(a) Report. – A person who has reasonable cause to suspect misconduct or incapacity of a
certified naturopathic doctor, or who has reasonable cause to suspect that a person is in violation
of this Article, may report the relevant facts to the Board. Upon receipt of a charge, or upon its
own initiative, the Board may give notice of an administrative hearing or may, after diligent

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investigation, dismiss unfounded charges. A person who, in good faith, makes a report pursuant to this section is immune from any criminal prosecution or civil liability resulting from making the report.

(b) Limited Immunity. – The Board, its officers, employees, and staff are immune from any criminal prosecution or civil liability for exercising, in good faith, the powers and duties given to the Board under this Article.

"§ 90-743. Third-party reimbursement.

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to require direct third-party reimbursement to persons certified under this Article.


(a) Created. – An Advisory Council is created to advise the Board and to develop recommendations to foster coordination and collaboration between naturopathic doctors, medical doctors, and other health care professionals for the purpose of providing appropriate care for patients. The Council shall meet periodically and report its recommendations to the Board and to the boards of directors for the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians.

(b) Membership. – The Advisory Council shall consist of the following six members:

(1) Two licensed physicians appointed by the North Carolina Medical Society.
(2) Two certified naturopathic doctors appointed by the North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians.
(3) One licensed pharmacist or pharmacologist appointed by the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists.
(4) One licensed advanced practice registered nurse appointed by the North Carolina Nursing Association.

(c) General Administration. – Each member is appointed for a term of two years beginning July 1, 2018. A member serves until a successor is appointed. The members of the Advisory Council may elect a chairperson by a majority vote. Advisory Council members may not receive compensation for their services but may receive reimbursement as provided in G.S. 93B-5.

SECTION 2. G.S. 90-18(c) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(c) The following shall not constitute practicing medicine or surgery as defined in this Article:

... (21) The practice of naturopathic medicine by a naturopathic doctor certified under the provisions of Article 43 of this Chapter."

SECTION 3. Part 2 of Article 4 of Chapter 114 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 114-19.33A. Criminal history record checks for naturopathic doctors.

(a) The Department of Justice shall provide to the North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board from the State and National Repositories of Criminal Histories the criminal history of an applicant for certification by the Board or a certified naturopathic doctor of the Board. The North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board shall provide to the Department of Justice, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant or certified naturopathic doctor, a form signed by the applicant or certified naturopathic doctor consenting to the criminal history record check and use of fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State and national repositories, and any additional information required by the Department of Justice. The fingerprints of the applicant or certified naturopathic doctor shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check. The North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this section confidential."
(b) The Department of Justice may charge a fee to offset the cost incurred by it to conduct a criminal history record check under this section. The fee shall not exceed the actual cost of locating, editing, researching, and retrieving the information."

**SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 90-735, as enacted by Section 1 of this act, the initial naturopathic doctors appointed to the North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board must be North Carolina residents, must be licensed as a naturopathic doctor in a state, district, territory, or province that licenses this profession, and must be eligible for certification under G.S. 90-737, as enacted by Section 1 of this act. Upon appointment, the appointee must immediately seek to become certified under this act.

**SECTION 5.** If House Bill 142, 2017 Regular Session, becomes law, then G.S. 93B-1(b), as amended by Section 1 of that act, reads as rewritten:

"(b) Occupational licensing boards include only those boards specifically identified in this subsection. No additional boards or commissions shall be added to this list without first having been approved by the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee of the General Assembly as being necessary in that the profession subject to licensure affects the health, safety, or welfare of the public and that mandatory licensure is necessary to ensure minimum standards of competency so as to protect the public from unqualified persons or unprofessional conduct by persons or entities practicing in the profession. Occupational licensing boards shall include only the following:

1. Acupuncture Licensing Board.
3. Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists.
15. North Carolina Board of Landscape Architects.
17. North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy.
18. North Carolina Board of Nursing.
20. North Carolina Board of Pharmacy.
22. North Carolina Board of Podiatry Examiners.
23. North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure.
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1 (32) North Carolina Medical Board.
2 (33) North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board.
3 (34) North Carolina Psychology Board.
5 (36) North Carolina Respiratory Care Board.
7 (38) North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners.
8 (39) North Carolina State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors.
9 (40) North Carolina State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.
10 (41) North Carolina State Board of Examiners in Optometry.
11 (42) North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors.
12 (43) North Carolina State Board of Opticians.
13 (44) North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board.
14 (45) North Carolina State Licensing Board for General Contractors.
16 (47) North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board.
17 (48) Private Protective Services Board.
18 (49) Public Librarian Certification Commission.
19 (50) Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission.
20 (51) State Board of Barber Examiners.
21 (52) State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners.
22 (53) State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.
23 (54) State Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners.
24 (55) State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors.
25 (56) State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors.
26 (57) State Board of Refrigeration Examiners.
27 (58) State Board of Registration for Foresters.
28 (59) North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Certification Board."
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SECTION 6. This act is effective when it becomes law.