
HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2026 Regular Session

Substitute for Original House Bill No. 1093 by Representative Carlson as proposed by the House Committee on Health and Welfare

This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1277(A)(introductory paragraph) and (1) and to enact Part IX of Chapter 15 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 37:1360.121 through 1360.135, relative to the practice of naturopathic medicine; to create the Louisiana Naturopathic Physician's Practice Act; to create the Louisiana Naturopathic Advisory Council within the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners; to provide for criminal history checks; to provide for the duties of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners; to provide for licensing naturopathic physicians; to provide for educational requirements; to provide for scope of practice; to prohibit certain acts; to provide for prescriptive authority and prescriptive endorsement; to establish independent practice; to provide for advertising; to provide for displaying credentials; to provide for fees; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:1277(A)(introductory paragraph) and (1) are hereby amended and reenacted and Part IX of Chapter 15 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 37:1360.121 through 1360.135, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1277. Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners; authorization to obtain criminal history record information

A. As used in this Section the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following meaning:

(1) "Applicant" means an individual who has made application to the board for the issuance, renewal, or reinstatement of any form of health care practitioner licensure which the board is authorized by law to issue, including but not limited to licensure as a physician or surgeon pursuant to R.S. 37:1261 et seq.; as a podiatrist

pursuant to R.S. 37:611 et seq.; as a physician assistant pursuant to R.S. 37:1360.21 et seq.; as a naturopathic physician pursuant to R.S. 1360.121 et seq.; as a midwife practitioner pursuant to R.S. 37:3240 et seq.; as a respiratory therapist or respiratory therapy assistant pursuant to R.S. 37:3351 et seq.; as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant pursuant to R.S. 37:3001 et seq.; as a clinical laboratory scientist pursuant to R.S. 37:1311 et seq.; as a clinical exercise physiologist pursuant to R.S. 37:3421 et seq.; as an athletic trainer pursuant to R.S. 37:3301 et seq.; as an acupuncturist or acupuncturist's assistant pursuant to R.S. 37:1356 et seq.; as a private radiologic technologist pursuant to R.S. 37:1292; or as a dispensing physician pursuant to LAC 46:XLV.6501 et seq.

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PART IX. NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS

§1360.121. Short title

This Part shall be known as and may be cited as the "Louisiana Naturopathic Physician's Practice Act".

§1360.122. Definitions

For the purposes of this Part, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section:

(1) "Board" means the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

(2)(a) "Compounding" means the combining of components into a compounded preparation in either of the following conditions:

(i) As the result of a practitioner's prescription drug order or initiative based on the practitioner-patient-pharmacist relationship in the course of professional practice to meet the specialized medical need of an individual patient of the practitioner that cannot be filled by a drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

(ii) For the purpose of, or incidental to, research, teaching, or chemical analysis and not for sale or dispensing.

(b) Compounding includes the preparation of drugs, nutrients, or devices in anticipation of receiving prescriptive drug orders based on routine, regularly observed prescribing patterns.

(c) Compounding does not include reconstituting any mixed drug according to the United States Food and Drug Administration-approved labeling of the drug.

(3) "Controlled substance" means a controlled dangerous substance enumerated in Schedules I through V in accordance with R.S. 40:961 et seq. with the exclusion of testosterone.

(4) "Council" means the Louisiana Naturopathic Advisory Council.

(5) "Device" means an instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant, in vitro reagent, or other similar or related article, including a component part or accessory that is any of the following:

(a) Recognized in the official national formulary, or the United States pharmacopoeia, or any supplement thereof.

(b) Intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions.

(c) Used for the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans.

(d) Not dependent upon being metabolized for the achievement of any of its primary intended purposes.

(6) "Dispense" or "dispensing" means to deliver prescription medication to the ultimate user or research subject to or pursuant to the lawful order of a practitioner or pursuant to the prescription of mid-level practitioner, including but not limited to delivering prescription medication to a patient by mail, common carrier, personal delivery, or third-party delivery to any location requested by the patient.

(7) "Drug" means any of the following:

(a) Any substance recognized as a drug in the official compendium, or supplement thereto, designated by the board for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of diseases in humans.

(b) Any substance intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans.

(c) Any substance other than food intended to affect the structure or any function of the body.

(8) "Durable medical equipment" means equipment that can withstand repeated use, is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose, is generally not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury, and is appropriate for use in the home including but not limited to all of the following:

(a) Blood glucose meters.

(b) Continuous glucose monitors.

(c) Blood pressure monitors.

(d) Pulse oximeters.

(e) Thermometers.

(f) Oxygen concentrators and tanks.

(g) Nebulizers.

(h) Infusion pumps.

(i) Any other assistive technology or device used in the management of a patient's health.

(9) "Legend drug" means any drug or drug product bearing on the label of the manufacturer or distributor, as required by the United States Food and Drug Administration, the statement "Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription".

(10) "Licensee" means a naturopathic physician licensed by the board in accordance with this Part.

(11) "Naturopathic medicine" means a system of health care for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human health conditions, injury, and disease; the promotion or restoration of health; and the support and stimulation of a patient's inherent self-healing processes through patient education and the use of naturopathic therapies and therapeutic substances.

(12)(a) "Naturopathic physical medicine" means the use of physical agents of air, water, heat, cold, sound, and light and the physical modalities of electrotherapy, biofeedback, diathermy, ultraviolet light, ultrasound, hydrotherapy, exercise, naturopathic manipulation and mobilization therapy.

(b) "Naturopathic physical medicine" does not mean the employment or application of chiropractic or spinal adjustments and the principles or techniques of chiropractic science as described in R.S. 37:2801 et. seq. or the manipulation or adjustment of the spine or extremity joints of the human body beyond the elastic barrier, including small amplitude movement at or beyond the end range of normal joint motion.

(13) "Naturopathic therapy" means, including but not limited to the use of naturopathic physical medicine, suggestion, hygiene, a therapeutic substance, a drug, nutrition and food science, homeopathic medicine, or a clinical laboratory procedure.

(14) "Nutrition and food science" means the prevention and treatment of disease or other human conditions through the use of food, water, herbs, roots, bark, or natural food elements.

(15) "Prescription" means an order from a practitioner authorized by law to prescribe for a drug or device that is patient-specific and communicated by any means to a pharmacist in a permitted pharmacy.

(16) "Suggestion" means a technique using any of the following:

(a) Biofeedback.

(b) Quantitative electroencephalography.

(c) Neurofeedback.

(d) Health education.

(e) Health counseling.

(17) "Therapeutic substance" means a natural or pharmaceutical substance used in the practice of naturopathic medicine for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of disease or the promotion or restoration of health. Therapeutic substances include but are not limited to all of the following:

(i) A vitamin.

- (ii) A mineral.
 - (iii) A nutraceutical.
 - (iv) A botanical medicine.
 - (v) Oxygen.
 - (vi) Hyperbaric oxygen therapy or HBOT or Mild hyperbaric oxygen therapy or mHBOT.
 - (vii) Ozone.
 - (viii) Homeopathic medicine.
 - (ix) Hormone or contraceptive device.
 - (x) A drug.
 - (xi) Peptide.
 - (xii) Other physiologic substances.
- (b) The use of therapeutic substances are limited to those consistent with the education and training of the naturopathic doctor.

§1360.123. The Louisiana Naturopathic Advisory Council

A. The Louisiana Naturopathic Advisory Council is created to assist the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners in the administration and oversight of the practice of naturopathic medicine.

B. The council consists of the following members:

(1) Three members who are licensed naturopathic physicians.

(2) One member who is a consumer.

C.(1) The members of the council shall be selected by the governor.

(2) Each council member who is a naturopathic physician shall meet all of the following criteria:

(a) Be licensed in this state as a naturopathic physician.

(b) Actively practice naturopathic medicine in this state.

(c) Pass the Naturopathic Physician Licensing Exam (NPLEX) administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners.

(d) Have a minimum of two years of clinical experience in the practice of naturopathic medicine.

(3) The consumer member shall represent consumer interests through experience in public service, community advocacy, law, and ethics.

D.(1) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

(2) All members of the council shall serve a term of three years.

(3) The council shall elect a chairperson by a majority of the vote.

(4) The council shall meet, at a minimum, twice annually, or as called by the board.

(5) The council shall maintain records of the content of its meetings and submit a copy of the such records to the board.

E. The council has all of the following duties:

(1) Advise the board on licensure requirements and professional standards for naturopathic physicians.

(2) Recommend rules and regulations governing the practice of naturopathic medicine.

(3) Provide guidance to the board regarding prescribing authority as defined in this Part.

(4) Advise on ethics, examinations, continuing education, and professional conduct.

(5) Review licensure applications and make recommendations to the board.

(6) Review prescribing practices.

(7) Provide recommendations for updates or clarifications on law provided for in this Part.

F. The council shall make recommendations only. The board retains full and final authority over licensure, discipline, rulemaking, and approval of prescriptive authority.

§1360.125. Scope of practice

A. A licensee may practice naturopathic medicine, naturopathic physical medicine, and naturopathic therapy in accordance with naturopathic medical education, training, and rules adopted by the board including all of the following:

(1) Performing physical examinations including speculum examinations and examinations of body orifices.

(2) Ordering laboratory examinations and diagnostic imaging studies.

(3) Interpreting laboratory examinations for diagnostic purposes.

(4) Ordering diagnostic imaging studies and taking action based on a radiologist's report in a manner consistent with naturopathic training.

(5) Prescribing, administering, dispensing, and ordering drugs as authorized by this Part.

(6) Prescribing, recommending, or administering a therapeutic substance including all of the following:

(a) Therapeutic substances including but not limited to food, food extracts, nutraceuticals, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, enzymes, whole gland thyroid, peptides, botanicals, homeopathic preparations, plant substances, dietary supplements, and nonprescriptive drugs.

(b) Human cellular and tissue-based products that are not regulated as drugs.

(c) Substances authorized for oral, nasal, topical, auricular, ocular, transdermal, intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, ligamentous, tendinous, periarticular, intra-vaginal, or rectal, including proliferative therapy.

(d) Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, also know as HBOT; mild hyperbaric oxygen therapy, also known as mHBOT; and ozone.

(e) Durable medical equipment and devices.

(7) Engaging in healthcare and nutritional counseling, including fertility counseling.

(8) Providing dietary therapy, naturopathic physical medicine, and barrier contraceptive devices.

(9) Providing biofeedback, neurofeedback, frequency-based therapies including but not limited to RIFE, light based, and soundwave modalities.

B. Prescribing, dispensing, and compounding authority exercised pursuant to this Part shall be subject to all applicable provisions of state and federal law including oversight by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

C. The use of non-diagnostic ultrasound shall not include the interpretation of diagnostic imaging studies.

D. A licensee may provide naturopathic care to a pregnant patient, including comprehensive prenatal care, wellness care, education, nutritional support, and labor support services consistent with the licensee's education and training.

§1360.126. Requirements for licensure

A. A license issued by the board is valid for one year from the date of issuance.

D. The board shall require an applicant for licensure to submit all of the following:

(1) An application provided by the board.

(2) An application fee and any other fees required by the board.

(3) Evidence of graduation from an approved naturopathic medical educational program in accordance with this Part.

(4) Evidence of passing of a competency-based national naturopathic medicine licensing examination administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners, or an equivalent agency recognized by the board.

C. If the board determines that an applicant is eligible to be licensed in accordance with this Part and determines that the applicant is physically and mentally capable of safely practicing naturopathic medicine, the board shall issue the applicant a license to practice naturopathic medicine.

D. The board shall renew a license to practice naturopathic medicine if the licensee completes all of the following:

(1) Submits a renewal application provided by the board.

(2) Pays the renewal fee and any other fees required by the board.

(3) Meets continuing education requirements established by the board.

(4) Remains in good standing in accordance with this Part and board rules.

E.(1) The board may issue a license to practice naturopathic medicine to an applicant who is licensed in good standing in another state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United

States or province with licensing requirements substantially equivalent to or greater than those of this state, as determined by the board. The applicant shall do all of the following:

(a) Submit an application and applicable fees.

(b) Provide verification of current licensure in good standing.

(c) Demonstrate successful completion of a competency-based naturopathic medical licensing examination that was accepted by the previous state, territory, jurisdiction, or province.

(d) Provide evidence of active practice or continued competency as defined by board rule.

(2) The board may require additional information necessary to determine substantial equivalency.

F.(1) The board may require a licensee who fails to provide consent and information required by the board to obtain a criminal history review.

(2) The board may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of a licensee that is convicted of a felony or an offense involving fraud or public safety.

G. Licensure does not confer prescriptive authority. Prescriptive authority shall be granted only through a separate prescriptive endorsement issued by the board upon satisfaction of additional educational, examination, and rule requirements provided for in this Part.

H. The board may deny, suspend, revoke, or otherwise discipline a licensee in accordance with this Part and board rules.

§1360.127. Educational qualifications; professional competency examination

A. An applicant seeking a license to practice naturopathic medicine shall have graduated from a school of naturopathic medicine that meets all of the following requirements:

(1) The school is a degree-granting doctoral-level naturopathic medical education program that offers didactic and supervised clinical training and results in the awarding of the degree of Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine or Doctor of Naturopathy.

(2) The course of study is any one of the following:

(a) Accredited or a candidate for accreditation by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education or a successor or board-recognized programmatic accrediting agency for naturopathic medical programs that the board determines to be substantial equivalent to the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education standards, including supervised clinical training, assessment, and outcomes, regardless of the accrediting agency's recognition status with the United States Department of Education. Programs taught entirely or primarily via distance education, or lacking supervised live patient care, do not meet the requirements of this Subparagraph.

(b) Housed in an institution of higher education that is accredited or is a candidate for accreditation by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, their successors, or any comparable federally recognized national quality-assurance body; or if no qualified programmatic naturopathic medical program accreditor exists, the program is housed within an institution of higher education that is accredited, or in candidacy, by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or by a Canadian provincial quality assurance body; and the board, through rule, determines the program meets or exceeds the curricular and clinical standards set forth in the Council for Higher Education Adccreditation Handbook of Accreditation then in effect, or its successor, including supervised clinical training with live patient encounters. Programs taught entirely or primarily via distance education do not meet the requirement of this Subparagraph.

(c) From a degree-granting institution of higher education in the United States or a diploma-granting degree-equivalent institution of higher education in Canada that, prior to the existence of the Council of Higher Education, offered a full-time, structured curriculum in basic sciences and supervised patient care comprising a doctoral naturopathic medical education requiring not less than one hundred thirty-two weeks of coursework to be completed within a period of not less than thirty months, which was reputable and in good standing in the judgment of the

board, and which, if still in existence, has current programmatic accreditation by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education or an equivalent accrediting agency. Successful completion of a competency-based national naturopathic medicine licensing examination administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners, or an equivalent agency recognized by the Board, or, for graduates of approved naturopathic medical programs in the United States prior to the existence of the CNME, a competency-based state naturopathic medicine licensing examination or equivalent Canadian provincial licensing examination for the practice of naturopathic medicine approved by the Board

§1360.128. Fees

A. The board shall fix and collect fees that do not exceed the following amounts for each type of fee and are not refundable:

<u>(1)</u>	<u>Application and initial license</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
<u>(2)</u>	<u>Temporary or provisional license</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
<u>(3)</u>	<u>License renewal</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
<u>(4)</u>	<u>License verification</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>(5)</u>	<u>Duplicate license</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>(6)</u>	<u>Document certification</u>	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
<u>(7)</u>	<u>Issuance of a subpoena</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
<u>(8)</u>	<u>Probation monitoring</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
<u>(9)</u>	<u>Delinquent fee, in addition to the renewal fee.</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>

B. The board may assess additional fees in conjunction with license renewal for programs authorized in accordance with this Part including but not limited to professional health monitoring programs or continuing education administration.

C. The board shall not establish or collect any fee in excess of the maximum amounts provided in this Section unless the increase is authorized by an act of the legislature.

§1360.129. Display of qualifications

A licensee shall display the license issued in accordance with this Part conspicuously at the principal place of practice and shall make available evidence

of completion of an approved naturopathic medical educational program and passage of an approved professional competency examination.

§1360.130. Prescriptive authority; requirements

A.(1) After meeting all requirements of this Part and obtaining a prescriptive endorsement, in accordance with the provisions of this Part, a licensee may prescribe, administer, dispense and order any of the following:

(a) Legend drugs.

(b) Testosterone products and controlled substances listed in Schedules III, IV, and V as provided for in R.S. 40:946.

(2) A licensee shall not prescribe or order controlled substances listed in Schedule I or II, as provided for in R.S. 40:964, benzodiazepines, opioids, or opioid derivatives.

B. A licensee may administer a drug utilizing routes of administration including but not limited to oral, nasal, topical, auricular, ocular, rectal, vaginal, intramuscular, transdermal, intradermal, subcutaneous, ligamentous, tendinous, and intravenous, including proliferative therapy.

C. All prescribing shall be in accordance with applicable state and federal law, including requirements for registration with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration when applicable.

D. A naturopathic physician may prescribe nonprescription medications without limitation.

E. Prescribing, dispensing, and compounding authority exercised in accordance with this Part shall be subject to all applicable provisions of state and federal law including oversight by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

F. The board shall require a licensee to do all of the following:

(1) Record each prescription order in writing which may include electronically recorded and transmitted communication. Each order shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the naturopathic physician.

(2) Prescribe only when the naturopathic physician has adequate education, training, and experience to safely manage the medical regimen.

(3) Register with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to prescribe controlled substances authorized by this Part.

(4) Comply with requirements of state and federal law and rules developed by the board relative to prescribing pharmaceutical drugs.

(5) The board may require a period of monitored prescribing, which may include chart review, peer review, or other competency-based evaluation, for a period not to exceed one year or until sufficient prescribing competency is demonstrated.

§1360.131. Prescriptive endorsement

A. In order to obtain the special license endorsement which shall authorize a naturopathic physician to prescribe, dispense, and administer prescription medicines, an otherwise qualified naturopathic physician will be required to pass the naturopathic pharmacology examination or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the board.

B. For no less than one year after receiving the special license endorsement, prescriptions shall be reviewed by an objective and independent supervising physician licensed, or a naturopathic physician licensed. The supervising physician shall possess an unencumbered license and have been prescribing and administering prescription drugs without limitation for five years or more. The supervising physician shall evaluate the naturopathic physician's ability to do all of the following:

(1) Safely prescribe and administer prescription drugs within the naturopath's scope of practice.

(2) Comply with federal and state law.

(3) Comply with the applicable administrative rules of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

C. The naturopathic and supervising physicians shall have a formal written agreement. The agreement shall address the requirements of Subsection B of this Section. The agreement shall be available for inspection upon request by the board.

D. A naturopathic physician who satisfies the supervision requirement in Subsection B of this Section shall notify the board that this requirement has been met and file a certificate of completion signed by the supervisor.

E. The executive director of the board may waive the prescription review requirement in Subsection B of this Section if the newly endorsed naturopathic physician can show that he has experience in prescribing prescription medicines under the laws of another jurisdiction that has standards and qualifications for a naturopathic physician to prescribe prescription medications at least equal to those required under these rules.

F. The use of prescription medications in a manner that has not been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration is referred to as "off-label." In addition to the use of prescription medications in a manner approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, a naturopathic physician who has appropriate competency, training, and experience may prescribe medications in an "off-label" manner in conformance with generally accepted standards of practice, including safety and efficacy, for both allopathic and naturopathic physicians.

§1360.132. Referrals to other providers

A licensee shall refer a patient to a physician or other licensed healthcare provider authorized to practice in this state if the patient's condition is beyond the licensee's scope of practice or requires a level of care not authorized by this Part.

§1360.133. Prohibitions; exceptions

A. A licensee shall not engage in any of the following:

(1) Practicing or claiming to practice as a medical doctor, osteopathic physician, dentist, chiropractor, acupuncturist, podiatrist, or any other healthcare professional unless also licensed as such in this state.

(2) Performing surgery.

(3) Using general or spinal anesthesia.

(4) Administering ionizing radioactive substances for therapeutic purposes.

(5) Administering, conducting, or interpreting the results of diagnostic imaging studies except as authorized by the board.

(6) Performing labor, delivery, or any procedure involving the reproductive organs of a pregnant patient, or performing operative or invasive obstetrical procedures.

(7) Prescribing, dispensing, or administering controlled dangerous substances, except as specifically authorized in accordance with this Part.

B. Nothing in this Part shall be construed to prohibit or restrict any of the following:

(1) The lawful practice of a profession by an individual licensed, certified, or registered in accordance with state law while acting within his scope of practice.

(2) The practice of naturopathic medicine by a student enrolled in an approved naturopathic medical educational program, when performed pursuant to instruction and under the supervision of a licensee or other duly licensed professional in the instructed field.

(3) Any person selling vitamins, herbs, supplements, or wellness products from providing general information about such products.

(4) A practitioner licensed in another jurisdiction from entering this state to consult with a licensee, limited to consultation, examination, recommendation, or testimony in litigation.

C.(1) Traditional naturopaths, herbalists, life coaches, nutrition coaches, and other natural healers who are not licensed in accordance with this Part shall not be prohibited from providing non-medical wellness services, education, coaching, nutritional guidance, homeopathy, herbal remedies, or other therapies within their scope of training and practice, if that a person does not do any of the following:

(a) Use a protected licensee title prohibited by this Part.

(b) Represent or assume the character or appearance of a licensee.

(c) Use a name, title, credential, abbreviation, or designation that indicates or implies state licensure as a naturopathic physician.

(2) A person not licensed in accordance with this Part shall use the terms "traditional naturopath" or "naturopath" if the person complies with the disclosure requirements of this Part and does not imply licensure as a naturopathic physician.

§1360.134. Protected titles for licensed naturopathic physicians

A. A licensee shall use the title "Naturopathic Medical Doctor" or "Naturopathic Doctor" and may use the abbreviations "N.D.", "ND", "NMD", or "N.M.D.".

B. A licensee has the exclusive right to use any of the following terms:

- (1) "Naturopathic doctor".
- (2) "Doctor of naturopathic medicine".
- (3) "Doctor of naturopathy".
- (4) "N.D.", "ND", "NMD", or "N.M.D.".
- (5) "Naturopathic physician".

C. A person represents himself as a naturopathic physician when he uses or adopts any of the terms provided for in this Section or otherwise represents being licensed in accordance with this Part.

D. A person shall not use "doctor," "physician," "N.D.," "NMD," "N.M.D.," "Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine," or similar terms implying licensure under this Part unless licensed.

§1360.135. Independent practice of naturopathic medicine

The practice of naturopathic medicine authorized by this Part does not require physician oversight, supervisory agreements, or collaboration as a condition of licensure or lawful practice except as provided for in this Part.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB Draft

2026 Regular Session

Abstract: Establishes standards and oversight of the practice of naturopathic medicine.

Present law authorizes the Louisiana St. Bd. of Medical Examiners (LSBME) to obtain background checks on certain healthcare professional licensed by the board.

Proposed law authorizes LSBME to obtain criminal history record information for applicants seeking issuance, renewal, or reinstatement of healthcare practitioner licensure.

Proposed law defines “applicant” and other terms applicable to naturopathic physicians and the practice of naturopathic medicine.

Proposed law establishes the “Louisiana Naturopathic Physician’s Practice Act”.

Proposed law provides definitions for key terms including "biological product", "compounding", "controlled substance", "device", "dispensing", "drug", "durable medical equipment", "legend drug", "licensee", "naturopathic medicine", "naturopathic physical medicine", "naturopathic therapy", "prescription", and "suggestion".

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Naturopathic Advisory Council to assist the board in oversight and regulation of naturopathic medicine.

Proposed law provides for council membership, qualifications, terms, quorum, meetings, and duties, including advisory functions on licensure, standards, prescribing, and discipline.

Proposed law provides that the board retains final authority over licensure, rulemaking, discipline, and prescriptive authority.

Proposed law authorizes licensees to practice naturopathic medicine, including examinations, ordering and interpreting diagnostics, prescribing and administering certain therapies and substances, and providing counseling and supportive care.

Proposed law provides for limitations on practice, including compliance with state and federal law and restrictions on diagnostic ultrasound interpretation.

Proposed law authorizes naturopathic care for pregnant patients within scope of training.

Proposed law requires licensure for the practice of naturopathic medicine and provides for annual licensure and renewal requirements.

Proposed law provides for licensure qualifications, including education, examination, application, fees, and demonstration of competency.

Proposed law authorizes licensure by reciprocity for applicants licensed in other jurisdictions with substantially equivalent requirements.

Proposed law authorizes the board to deny, suspend, or revoke licenses based on criminal history or failure to comply with background check requirements.

Proposed law provides that licensure alone does not confer prescriptive authority and requires a separate prescriptive endorsement.

Proposed law establishes educational requirements for licensure, including graduation from accredited or equivalent naturopathic medical programs with supervised clinical training.

Proposed law authorizes the board to establish and collect specified fees, subject to statutory maximums.

Proposed law requires licensees to display licensure and provide evidence of qualifications.

Proposed law provides for prescriptive authority upon issuance of a prescriptive endorsement, including authority to prescribe legend drugs and certain controlled substances, with specified prohibitions.

Proposed law establishes requirements for prescribing practices, including compliance with federal and state law and possible monitoring.

Proposed law requires passage of a pharmacology examination and supervised prescribing period to obtain a prescriptive endorsement, with limited waiver authority.

Proposed law authorizes off-label prescribing consistent with accepted standards of care.

Proposed law requires referrals to other healthcare providers when a patient's condition exceeds the licensee's scope of practice.

Proposed law prohibits certain acts, including performing surgery, using anesthesia, administering certain substances, or practicing outside defined scope.

Proposed law provides exceptions preserving the lawful practice of other licensed professionals and certain non-medical wellness activities.

Proposed law permits unlicensed individuals to provide limited wellness services if they do not represent themselves as licensed naturopathic physicians and comply with disclosure requirements.

Proposed law establishes protected titles for licensed naturopathic physicians and restricts use of such titles by unlicensed individuals.

Proposed law requires disclosures by unlicensed individuals using the term "naturopath" and authorizes the board to adopt formatting standards.

Proposed law provides for independent practice of naturopathic medicine without physician supervision, except as otherwise provided.

Effective Jan. 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 37:1277(A)(intro. para) and (1); Adds R.S. 37:1360.121-1360.135)