

2021 -- H 5850

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- LICENSE OF NATUROPATHY ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, Kennedy, Solomon, Kazarian, and Williams

Date Introduced: February 24, 2021

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 5-36.1-2 and 5-36.1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-36.1 entitled
2 "License of Naturopathy Act of 2017" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-36.1-2. Definitions.**

4 The following words and phrases as used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:

- 5 (1) "Approved naturopathic college" means a college that grants a degree of ~~doctor of~~
6 ~~naturopathy~~ naturopathic doctor and:
- 7 (i) Is accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), its successor
8 or other accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; or
- 9 (ii) Is accredited by any other organization approved by the board of licensure of
10 naturopathy.
- 11 (2) "Board" means the board of licensure of naturopathy.
- 12 (3) "CNME" or "Council" is the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education.
- 13 (4) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of health.
- 14 (5) "Director" means the director of the Rhode Island department of health.
- 15 (6) "Disciplinary action" means any action taken by an administrative law officer
16 established against a licensee or applicant on a finding of unprofessional conduct by the licensee
17 or applicant. "Disciplinary action" includes issuance of warnings and all sanctions including denial,
18 suspension, revocation, limitation, or restriction of licenses and other similar limitations.
- 19 (7) ~~"Doctor of naturopathy" means a person who practices naturopathic health care and is~~

1 ~~licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.~~

2 (8) "Natural" means present in, produced by, or derived from nature.

3 (9) "Naturopathic doctor" means a person who practices naturopathic health care and is
4 licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

5 ~~(9)~~(10) "Naturopathic health care" or "the practice of naturopathic health care" means a
6 system of health care that utilizes education, natural substances, and natural therapies to support
7 and stimulate a patient's intrinsic self-healing processes and to prevent and treat human health
8 conditions and injuries.

9 **5-36.1-3. Scope of practice.**

10 (a) A license authorizes a licensee, consistent with naturopathic education and training and
11 competence demonstrated by passing the ~~doctor of naturopathy~~ naturopathic doctor licensing
12 examination, to:

13 (1) Order and perform physical and laboratory examinations for diagnostic purposes;

14 (2) Dispense or order natural substances of mineral, animal, or botanical origin, including
15 food, extracts of food, nutraceuticals, vitamins, amino acids, minerals, enzymes, botanicals and
16 their extracts, botanical substances, homeopathic substances, and all dietary supplements and
17 nonprescription drugs as defined by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 301 et
18 seq., that use various routes of administration, including oral, nasal, auricular, ocular, rectal,
19 vaginal, and transdermal;

20 (3) Administer natural substances of mineral, animal, or botanical origin, including food,
21 extracts of food, nutraceuticals, vitamins, amino acids, minerals, enzymes, botanicals and their
22 extracts, botanical substances, homeopathic substances, and all dietary supplements and
23 nonprescription drugs as defined by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 301 et
24 seq., using transdermal routes of administration;

25 (4) Administer or perform hot or cold hydrotherapy, electromagnetic energy, and
26 therapeutic exercise for the purpose of providing basic therapeutic care services, except that if a
27 referral to another licensed provider is appropriate for ongoing rehabilitation or habilitation
28 services, the ~~doctor of naturopathy~~ naturopathic doctor shall make the referral;

29 (5) Provide health education and health counseling; and

30 (6) Perform naturopathic musculoskeletal mobilization-; and

31 (7) Perform and administer IV therapy; and

32 (8) Administer and perform phlebotomy within the office of the naturopathic doctor; and

33 (9) Perform consultations with patients regarding their use of prescription medications,
34 including, but not limited to, counseling regarding interactions of prescription medications, nutrient

1 deficiencies and safe ways to discontinue use of prescription medication. Naturopathic doctors shall
2 not make any changes to a patient's prescription medication and will recommend all changes be
3 made by the patient's referring physician.

4 (b) If a ~~doctor of naturopathy~~ naturopathic doctor is engaged in the private practice of
5 naturopathy in the state, the ~~doctor of naturopathy~~ naturopathic doctor shall display the license
6 obtained pursuant to this section conspicuously in each office where the ~~doctor of naturopathy~~
7 naturopathic doctor is engaged in practice.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would change the name of doctor of naturopathy to naturopathic doctor and permit
2 them to administer IVs, perform phlebotomy, and consult, but not change, patient's prescription
3 medication.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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