GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2003

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HOUSE BILL 1702*

Short Title: LRC Study/Naturopathic Pract'r. Lic./Funds.	
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Sponsors:Representatives Hill; and Carney.Referred to:Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

May 27, 2004

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED			
2	AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO			
3	STUDY LI	CENSING PRACTITIONERS OF NATUROPATHY IN NORTH		
4	CAROLINA			
5	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:			
6	SECTION 1. The Legislative Research Commission is authorized to study			
7	the practice of naturopathy in North Carolina, and to make recommendations as to			
8	whether it would be in the public interest for practitioners to be licensed or otherwise			
9	appropriately regulated.			
10	SECT	FION 2. In conducting the study, the Commission may consider the		
11	following:			
12	(1)	The definition and components of naturopathy and naturopathic		
13		therapies.		
14	(2)	The health, cultural, and social significance of naturopathy in North		
15		Carolina and nationally.		
16	(3)	The distinctions and similarities between naturopathic therapies and		
17		conventional medical treatments.		
18	(4)	The education and training of practitioners and the quality of that		
19		education and training, the extent to which the practice of naturopathy		
20		requires specialized skill or training, and the standards for determining		
21		the level of education and qualifications that should be required for		
22		licensure.		
23	(5)	The extent to which there is, and can be, integration and coordination		
24		of natural therapies and conventional medical treatments.		
25	(6)	The regulation and enforcement related to naturopathy in North		
26		Carolina and nationally, the need for regulation, and the extent and		
27	-	impact of previous regulatory efforts.		
28	(7)	Whether, without licensure, the general public possesses the ability to		
29		determine whether a practitioner is competent.		

(Public)

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1	(8)	Whether substantial harm to the public health, safety, and welfare	
2		exists if the practice of naturopathy is unregulated.	
3	(9)	The appropriate structure, composition, and responsibilities of a	
4		regulatory board pertaining to the practice of naturopathy, the extent to	
5		which the responsibilities of a board can be fulfilled, and whether	
6		board operations can reasonably be financed through licensing fees.	
7	(10)	The extent to which naturopathy is regulated in other states, and the	
8		impact of that regulation.	
9	(11)	The scope of practice applicable to practitioners of naturopathy.	
10	(12)	Whether practitioners of naturopathy in North Carolina have, or	
11		propose to have, a code of ethics, a voluntary certification program, or	
12		other measures to ensure minimum quality of service.	
13	(13)	The kinds of regulatory provisions that exist in other states.	
14	(14)	How the practice of naturopathy will be regulated, including the	
15		qualifications and disciplinary proceedings to be applied to	
16		practitioners.	
17	(15)	How the public will benefit from licensure or other regulation.	
18	(16)	The fiscal impact of licensure or other regulation upon the State.	
19	(17)	Any other information the Committee considers relevant.	
20		TON 3.(a) The Legislative Research Commission shall make a final	
21		ings and recommendations to the 2005 General Assembly not later than	
22	the convening of	f the 2005 Session of the General Assembly.	
23		TON 3.(b) The Legislative Research Commission shall make a final	
24	report to the Legislative Committee on New Licensing Boards within 10 calendar days		
25	after that Committee is constituted for the 2005 General Assembly.		
26		TON 4. From funds appropriated to the General Assembly, the	
27	Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the purpose of conducting the		
28	study provided for in this act.		
29	SECT	TON 5. This act is effective when it becomes law.	