

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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SENATE BILL 1268*

Short Title: LRC Study/Naturopathic Pract'r. Lic./Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Kinnaird; Clodfelter, Dorsett, Hartsell, Lucas, Nesbitt, and Reeves.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

May 24, 2004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO
2 STUDY LICENSING PRACTITIONERS OF NATUROPATHY IN NORTH
3 CAROLINA.
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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 **SECTION 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.

- 1 (7) Whether, without licensure, the general public possesses the ability to
2 determine whether a practitioner is competent.
- 3 (8) Whether substantial harm to the public health, safety, and welfare
4 exists if the practice of naturopathy is unregulated.
- 5 (9) The appropriate structure, composition, and responsibilities of a
6 regulatory board pertaining to the practice of naturopathy, the extent to
7 which the responsibilities of a board can be fulfilled, and whether
8 board operations can reasonably be financed through licensing fees.
- 9 (10) The extent to which naturopathy is regulated in other states, and the
10 impact of that regulation.
- 11 (11) The scope of practice applicable to practitioners of naturopathy.
- 12 (12) Whether practitioners of naturopathy in North Carolina have, or
13 propose to have, a code of ethics, a voluntary certification program, or
14 other measures to ensure minimum quality of service.
- 15 (13) The kinds of regulatory provisions that exist in other states.
- 16 (14) How the practice of naturopathy will be regulated, including the
17 qualifications and disciplinary proceedings to be applied to
18 practitioners.
- 19 (15) How the public will benefit from licensure or other regulation.
- 20 (16) The fiscal impact of licensure or other regulation upon the State.
- 21 (17) Any other information the Committee considers relevant.

22 **SECTION 3.(a)** The Legislative Research Commission shall make a final
23 report of its findings and recommendations to the 2005 General Assembly not later than
24 the convening of the 2005 Session of the General Assembly.

25 **SECTION 3.(b)** The Legislative Research Commission shall make a final
26 report to the Legislative Committee on New Licensing Boards within 10 calendar days
27 after that Committee is constituted for the 2005 General Assembly.

28 **SECTION 4.** From funds appropriated to the General Assembly, the
29 Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the purpose of conducting the
30 study provided for in this act.

31 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.