

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: S3/15/23

A Bill

SENATE BILL 86

By: Senator C. Penzo

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY
AND REPORT ON THE STATUS OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS
IN ARKANSAS AND OTHER STATES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
STUDY AND REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS IN ARKANSAS AND
OTHER STATES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Naturopathic physician study and reporting.

(a)(1) The Department of Health shall conduct a study regarding naturopathic physicians and the practice of naturopathic medicine.

(2) The study shall include without limitation:

(A) The number of individuals engaging in the practice of naturopathic medicine in this state;

(B) The education credentials of the individuals identified as engaging in the practice of naturopathic medicine in this state;

(C) The geographic distribution of individuals engaging in the practice of naturopathic medicine in this state; and

(D) A survey of other states to determine:

(i) Which states recognize naturopathic physicians, by that title or any other, or the practice of naturopathic medicine in state law; and



(ii) For each state that recognizes naturopathic physicians in state law:

(a) The methods by which naturopathic physicians are recognized and regulated, whether by licensure, certification, registration, or other lawful recognition;

(b) The entity responsible for governance and regulation of naturopathic physicians and the practice of naturopathic medicine and, if the entity is a board or committee, the composition of the board or committee;

(c) The initial and ongoing requirements for an individual to be recognized as a naturopathic physician, including educational credentials, continuing education, examination requirements, fees, and other requirements imposed by the state;

(d) Any delineation of or limitations to the services an individual licensed as a naturopathic physician may perform and the process for determining such delineation or limitations; and

(e) Any provisions in state law or regulation regarding payment for services of naturopathic physicians by Medicaid, commercial insurers, or other payors.

(b)(1) The department shall complete the study required by subsection (a) of this section no later than June 30, 2024.

(2) The department shall submit a report on the study to:

(A) The Governor;

(B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(C) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(D) The House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and

Labor;

(E) The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and

Labor;

(F) The Secretary of the Department of Health; and

(G) The Arkansas State Medical Board.

(3) The report shall be made publicly available on the department's website.

/s/C. Penzo