



Fiscal Note
Legislative Council Staff
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-032: NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR FORMULARY

Prime Sponsors:
Sen. Pelton R.; Snyder
Rep. Boesenecker; Weinberg

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Bill Outcome: Postponed Indefinitely
Drafting number: LLS 25-0321

Version: Final Fiscal Note
Date: May 21, 2025

Fiscal note status: This final fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on February 6, 2025; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill would have expanded the naturopathic doctor formulary to include certain prescription and nonprescription drugs, and other substances. It also would have modified registration requirements to practice with the new formulary and further specified the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors.

Types of impacts. The bill was projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Minimal State Workload
- State Revenue

Appropriations. No appropriation was required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill updates the prescription and nonprescription drugs that a naturopathic doctor can obtain, dispense, administer, order, or prescribe, and modifies registration requirements to practice with the new naturopathic formulary. The bill further specifies the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors.

New Formulary

Under the bill, the naturopathic formulary is amended to include certain legend drugs, vitamins, minerals, enzymes, food, biological substances, vaccines, hormones, and homeopathic preparations, among others. Additionally, naturopathic doctors may practice with all drugs listed on schedules IV and V under the Colorado Uniform Controlled Substance Act, excluding benzodiazepines, oncological chemotherapeutics, and narcotics. With a registration from the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), naturopathic doctors may also practice with schedule III anabolic steroids.

The bill prohibits naturopathic doctors from practicing with schedule I or II substances, prescribing medication or devices to individuals under 18 years old, or prescribing antipsychotics or ketamine. Furthermore, naturopathic doctors without state-approved certification may not administer intravenous therapy.

Registration

Naturopathic doctors who register with the state prior to September 1, 2025, may not practice with the new naturopathic formulary until they provide the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) with proof of pharmacological continued education, passage of an approved examination, or licensure from another state with equivalent prescribing authority. Individuals who do not provide the required proof are limited to the medications and devices on the existing formulary.

Beginning September 1, 2025, applicants must pass an approved national examination in order to be registered with the state and practice with the new formulary. Beginning June 1, 2026, renewing registrants must complete eight hours of continued education in pharmacology.

State Revenue

Starting in FY 2025-26, the bill minimally increases state revenue to DORA from annual registration fees in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Naturopathic doctors with an elective DEA license to prescribe schedule III drugs must register with the PDMP, which provides prescribers with a patient's controlled substance prescription records. Colorado currently registers about 195 naturopathic doctors and PDMP fees are \$15.50 annually; therefore, fee revenue is expected to be minimal and less than \$3,000 per year. This fee revenue, which is deposited to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Fund, is subject to TABOR.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload and legal costs in DORA to make rules, update materials, and manage additional registrations with the PDMP. The new prescribing authority related to controlled substances may make investigations and disciplinary actions for naturopathic doctors more complex, which may increase staff time and costs for legal services provided by the Department of Law. Any increase in workload and costs can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Law

Regulatory Agencies

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).