



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0514
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Landgraf; Caraveo

Date: February 13, 2020
Bill Status: House Public Health
Fiscal Analyst: Matt Bishop | 303-866-4796
Matt.Bishop@state.co.us

Bill Topic: SUNSET NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

Sunset bill. HB 20-1212 continues the regulation of naturopathic doctors in the Department of Regulatory Agencies, which is scheduled to repeal on September 1, 2020. State fiscal impacts include both a minimal decrease in workload from changes to the program under the bill, as well as the continuation of the program's current revenue and expenditures. The program is continued through September 1, 2029.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 20-1212*

Table with 3 columns: Continuing Program Impacts, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22. Rows include Revenue (Cash Funds), Expenditures (Cash Funds, FTE).

* Table 1 shows the new impacts resulting from changes to the program under the bill and the continuing impacts from extending the program beyond its current repeal date. The continuing program impacts will end if the bill is not passed and the program is allowed to repeal.

Summary of Legislation

The bill continues the regulation of naturopathic doctors by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) for nine years and implements the department's recommendations in the sunset report. Specifically, it provides department staff, consultants, and complainants with immunity from liability for acts occurring while acting in their capacity; removes references to the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners and the Council of Naturopathic Medical Education; and repeals the requirement that naturopathic doctors enter into a collaborative agreement with a licensed physician before treating children under the age of two.

Background

Naturopathic doctors are required to register with DORA. Requirements for registration include the completion of a four-year, accredited, graduate-level program; passing the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination; and payment of an application fee. Registrations expire annually and naturopathic doctors must maintain continued professional competency, as established by DORA in order to renew or reinstate a registration.

Continuing Program Impacts

Based on DORA's recent expenditures, it is expected to have revenue and expenditure of \$90,000 to administer the regulation of naturopathic doctors. If this bill is enacted, current revenue and expenditures will continue for the program starting in FY 2021-22. This continuing revenue is subject to the state TABOR limits. If this bill is not enacted, the program will end on September 1, 2021, following a wind-down period, and state revenue and expenditures will decrease starting in FY 2021-22 by the amounts shown in Table 1. The changes to the program that drive additional workload are discussed below. The fiscal note does not identify any change to TABOR refunds because the revenue is already accounted for in the LCS revenue forecast.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2020-21, the bill reduces the workload in DORA by removing the regulation that naturopathic doctors enter into collaborative agreements to treat children under the age of two. The workload decrease is minimal, so no change in appropriation is required.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology

Law

Regulatory Agencies