

Sixty-second  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2271

Introduced by

Senators Sitte, Christmann, Mathern

Representatives Hofstad, R. Kelsch, J. Kelsh

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 43-17-02 and chapter 43-57  
2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to regulation of naturopaths; to amend and reenact  
3 section 43-17-41 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to duties of naturopaths; to provide  
4 a penalty; and to provide for application.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 43-17-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 A naturopath duly licensed to practice in this state pursuant to the statutes regulating  
9 such profession.

10 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-17-41 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **43-17-41. Duty of physicians and others to report injury - Penalty.**

- 13 1. Any physician, physician assistant, naturopath licensed under chapter 43-57, or any  
14 individual licensed under chapter 43-12.1 who performs any diagnosis or treatment for  
15 any individual suffering from any wound, injury, or other physical trauma:
  - 16 a. Inflicted by the individual's own act or by the act of another by means of a knife,  
17 gun, or pistol shall as soon as practicable report the wound, injury, or trauma to a  
18 law enforcement agency in the county in which the care was rendered; or
  - 19 b. Which the individual performing diagnosis or treatment has reasonable cause to  
20 suspect was inflicted in violation of any criminal law of this state, shall as soon as  
21 practicable report the wound, injury, or trauma to a law enforcement agency in  
22 the county in which the care was rendered.
- 23 2. The report under subsection 1 must state the name of the injured individual and the  
24 character and extent of the individual's injuries.

- 1           3.    When a report of domestic violence, as defined in section 14-07.1-01, or a report of  
2           physical injury resulting from a sexual offense, as defined in chapter 12.1-20, is made  
3           to a law enforcement agency as required by this section, the injured individual must be  
4           provided with information regarding a domestic violence sexual assault organization  
5           as defined in section 14-07.1-01 or other victims' assistance program by the physician,  
6           physician assistant, naturopath, or any individual licensed under chapter 43-12.1,  
7           unless it is known that the information has previously been provided to the injured  
8           individual.
- 9           4.    The reports mandated by this section must be made as soon as practicable and may  
10          be either oral or in writing. Oral reports must be followed by written reports within  
11          forty-eight hours if so requested by the sheriff or state's attorney to whom the oral  
12          report is originally made.
- 13          5.    Any individual required to report as provided by this section who willfully fails to do so  
14          is guilty of an infraction.
- 15          6.    Any individual making or not making a report in good faith pursuant to this section is  
16          immune from liability for making or not making a report.

17          **SECTION 3.** Chapter 43-57 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as  
18 follows:

19          **43-57-01. Definitions.**

20          As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 21          1.    "Approved naturopathic medical college" means a college and program granting the  
22               degree of doctor of naturopathy or naturopathic medicine which must require as a  
23               minimum a four-year, full-time resident program of academic and clinical study and  
24               which:
  - 25               a.   Is accredited, or has the status of candidate for accreditation, by an organization  
26                   approved by the board, such as the council on naturopathic medical education; or  
27               b.   Has been approved by the board after an investigation that determines that the  
28                   college or program meets education standards equivalent to those established by  
29                   the accrediting agency under subdivision a and complies with the board's rules.
- 30          2.    "Board" means the state board of integrative health care.

- 1       3. "Homeopathic preparations" means nonprescriptive substances prepared according to  
2       the official homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United States. The term does not  
3       include prescriptive drugs.
- 4       4. "Licensee" means a person licensed by the board under this chapter.
- 5       5. "Naturopath" means an individual licensed to practice naturopathic health care under  
6       this chapter.
- 7       6. "Naturopathic health care", "naturopathic medicine", or "naturopathy" means a system  
8       of primary health care practiced by naturopaths for the prevention, diagnosis, and  
9       treatment of human health conditions, injury, and disease. The purpose of  
10       naturopathic health care, naturopathic medicine, or naturopathy is to promote or  
11       restore health by the support and stimulation of the individual's inherent self-healing  
12       processes. This is accomplished through education of the patient by a naturopath and  
13       through the use of natural therapies and therapeutic substances.
- 14       7. "Naturopathic physical application" means the therapeutic use by a naturopath of the  
15       actions or devices of electrical muscle stimulation, galvanic, diathermy, ultrasound,  
16       ultraviolet light, hydrotherapy, and naturopathic manipulative therapy. The term does  
17       not include manipulation of the spine.

18       **43-57-02. Board - Qualifications - Appointment - Term of office - Compensation.**

- 19       1. The governor shall appoint the state board of integrative health care, which must  
20       consist of five members, one of whom must be a naturopath, one of whom must be an  
21       acupuncturist, one of whom must be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, one of whom  
22       must be a pharmacist, and one of whom must be a layperson. If a doctor of medicine  
23       or osteopathy is not willing and able to serve, the governor may appoint an advanced  
24       practice registered nurse to fill this position. A board member must be a resident of this  
25       state. The four professional members must be licensed to practice in this state, except  
26       the initial naturopath appointment, who must be eligible for licensure, and except the  
27       acupuncturist appointment, who needs not be licensed. The layperson must be at  
28       least twenty-one years of age and may not be affiliated with any organization or  
29       profession that represents, provides, or regulates health care.

- 1       2. The term of office of each board member is three years with no more than two  
2           members appointed annually. A member may not serve more than two consecutive full  
3           terms.
- 4       3. The governor may remove any board member for good cause after giving that  
5           member a written statement of the reasons for removal and after that member has had  
6           an opportunity for a hearing.
- 7       4. Each board member shall serve without compensation but is entitled to receive  
8           expenses as provided in section 54-06-09 and per diem as must be fixed by the board.
- 9       5. Annually, board members shall elect a chairman to preside at meetings of the board  
10           and a vice chairman to preside at meetings of the board in the chairman's absence.

11       **43-57-03. Powers and duties of board.**

- 12       1. The board shall adopt rules:
  - 13           a. To administer and enforce this chapter;
  - 14           b. That specify the scope of practice of naturopathic medicine which are consistent  
15           with the education provided by approved naturopathic medical colleges;
  - 16           c. That endorse equivalent licensure examinations of another state or foreign  
17           country and which may include licensure by reciprocity;
  - 18           d. That approve naturopathic medical colleges; and
  - 19           e. That set fees for licensure, which may include:
    - 20               (1) Application fee;
    - 21               (2) License fee;
    - 22               (3) Renewal fee;
    - 23               (4) Late fee;
    - 24               (5) Administrative fees; and
    - 25               (6) Continuing education fees.
- 26       2. The board shall produce an annual list of the names and level of licensure of all  
27           individuals licensed under this chapter and make the list available upon request.
- 28       3. The board may employ staff and provide for staff compensation.
- 29       4. The board shall receive all moneys collected under this chapter and shall deposit and  
30           disburse all fees and moneys collected in accordance with section 54-44-12.
- 31       5. The board may establish continuing education requirements for license renewal.

1       6.   The board may adopt a code of ethics for each profession licensed by the board.

2       **43-57-04. Practice of naturopathic health care.**

3       1.   A naturopath may practice naturopathic medicine as a limited practice of the healing  
4       arts as exempted under section 43-17-02. A naturopath may not:

5       a.   Prescribe, dispense, or administer any prescription drug;

6       b.   Administer ionizing radioactive substances for therapeutic purposes;

7       c.   Perform a surgical procedure; or

8       d.   Claim to practice any licensed health care profession or system of treatment  
9       other than naturopathic medicine unless holding a separate license in that  
10      profession. A naturopath may not hold out to the public that the naturopath is a  
11      primary care provider.

12      2.   A naturopath may prescribe and administer for preventive and therapeutic purposes a  
13      prescriptive device and the following nonprescriptive natural therapeutic substances,  
14      drugs, and therapies:

15      a.   Food, vitamins, minerals, dietary supplements, enzymes, botanical medicines,  
16      and homeopathic preparations;

17      b.   Topical drugs, health care counseling, nutritional counseling and dietary therapy,  
18      naturopathic physical applications, and therapeutic devices; and

19      c.   Barrier devices for contraception.

20      3.   A naturopath may perform or order for diagnostic purposes a physical or orificial  
21      examination, ultrasound, phlebotomy, clinical laboratory test or examination,  
22      physiological function test, and any other noninvasive diagnostic procedure commonly  
23      used by physicians in general practice and as authorized by the board.

24      **43-57-05. Naturopathic - Exemptions.**

25      Many of the therapies used by a naturopath, such as the use of nutritional supplements,  
26      herbs, foods, homeopathic preparations, and such physical forces as heat, cold, water, touch,  
27      and light, are not the exclusive privilege of naturopaths, and their use, practice, prescription, or  
28      administration by individuals not licensed to practice naturopathic medicine is not prohibited by  
29      this chapter. This chapter does not restrict or apply to the scope of practice of any other  
30      profession licensed, certified, or registered under the laws of this state.

1        **43-57-06. Naturopathic - Public health duties.**

2        A naturopath has the same powers and duties as a licensed physician with regard to public  
3 health laws, reportable diseases and conditions, communicable disease control and prevention,  
4 recording of vital statistics, health and physical examinations, and local boards of health, except  
5 that the authority and responsibility are limited to activities consistent with the scope of practice  
6 established under this chapter.

7        **43-57-07. Naturopathic - License required - Title restrictions.**

8        1. A person may not practice naturopathy without a current naturopathic license issued  
9 by the board.

10       2. A naturopath may use the title "naturopath" or "doctor of naturopathic  
11 medicine" and the abbreviation "N.D." when used to reflect either of these titles. A  
12 person that uses these terms or initials as identification without having received a  
13 naturopathic license under this chapter is engaging in the practice of naturopathy  
14 without a license.

15       **43-57-08. Naturopathic - Qualifications for licensure.**

16       In order to obtain a license to practice naturopathic medicine in this state, an application  
17 must be made to the board. The application must be upon the form adopted by the board and  
18 must be made in the manner prescribed by the board.

19       **43-57-09. Naturopathic - Application for licensure.**

20       1. An applicant for naturopathic licensure shall file an application on forms provided by  
21 the board showing to the board's satisfaction that the applicant is of good moral  
22 character and satisfied all of the requirements of this chapter, including:  
23       a. Successful graduation of an approved naturopathic medical college;  
24       b. Successful completion of an examination prescribed or endorsed by the board,  
25       such as part I and part II of the naturopathic physicians licensing examinations;  
26       c. Physical, mental, and professional capability for the practice of naturopathic  
27       medicine in a manner acceptable to the board; and  
28       d. A history free of any finding by the board, any other state licensure board, or any  
29       court of competent jurisdiction of the commission of any act that would constitute  
30       grounds for disciplinary action under this chapter. The board may modify this  
31       restriction for cause.

1       2.   The application must be accompanied by the board-established license fees and  
2           application fees and by the documents, affidavits, and certificates necessary to  
3           establish that the applicant possesses the necessary qualifications.

4       **43-57-10. Naturopathic - Licensure granted without examination to individuals**  
5       **licensed in other states.**

6       1.   The board may issue a naturopathic license by endorsement to an applicant who has  
7           complied with licensure requirements and who has passed an examination given by a  
8           recognized certifying agency approved by the licensing agency if the board determines  
9           the examination was equivalent in every respect to the examination required under  
10          this chapter.

11       2.   The board may enter reciprocal agreements with licensing agencies of other states  
12          providing for reciprocal waiver of further examination or any part of the examination.

13       3.   If an applicant is exempt from the examination required under this chapter, the  
14          applicant shall comply with the other requirements for licensure. The board may adopt  
15          rules allowing for temporary and special licensure to be in effect during the interval  
16          between board meetings.

17       **43-57-11. Issuance of license.**

18       If the board determines that an applicant possesses the qualifications required under this  
19       chapter, the board shall issue a license to the applicant.

20       **43-57-12. License renewal - Continuing education.**

21       1.   A license is effective when granted by the board.

22       2.   A license expires on December thirty-first of every odd-numbered year.

23       3.   A license may be renewed by payment of the renewal fee and completion of any  
24          continuing education requirements set by the board, provided the applicant's license is  
25          not currently revoked or grounds for denial do not exist.

26       4.   If the application for renewal is not received on or before the expiration date, the  
27          license expires and the individual may not practice until a new application is made and  
28          a license is granted by the board.

29       5.   At the time of renewal, the board shall require each applicant to present satisfactory  
30          evidence that the applicant has completed any continuing education requirements  
31          specified by the board.

1       6. If a license has not been renewed as a result of nonpayment of the renewal fee or the  
2           failure of the licensee to present satisfactory evidence of completion of any continuing  
3           education requirements, the licensee must reapply for licensure.

4       7. The board may extend the renewal deadline for an applicant having proof of medical  
5           or other hardship rendering the applicant unable to meet the renewal deadline.

6       **43-57-13. Naturopathic - Employment by hospitals.**

7       A hospital may employ a naturopath in the same manner as provided under section  
8       43-17-42.

9       **43-57-14. Discipline.**

10      1. The board may take disciplinary action against a licensee by any of the following  
11           means:

12           a. Revocation of license;

13           b. Suspension of license;

14           c. Probation;

15           d. Imposition of stipulations, limitations, or conditions relating to the licensee's  
16           practice;

17           e. Letter of censure;

18           f. Require the licensee to provide free public or charitable service for a defined  
19           period; and

20           g. Impose fines, not to exceed five thousand dollars for any single disciplinary  
21           action. Any fines collected by the board must be deposited in the state general  
22           fund.

23      2. Disciplinary action may be imposed against a licensee upon any of the following  
24           grounds:

25           a. The use of any false, fraudulent, or forged statement or document, or the use of  
26           any fraudulent, deceitful, dishonest, or immoral practice, in connection with any of  
27           the licensing requirements.

28           b. The making of false or misleading statements about the licensee's skill or the  
29           efficacy of any medicine, treatment, or remedy.



- 1           c. The conviction of any misdemeanor determined by the board to have a direct  
2           bearing upon the licensee's ability to serve the public or any felony. A license may  
3           not be withheld contrary to the provisions of chapter 12.1-33.
- 4           d. Habitual use of alcohol or drugs.
- 5           e. Physical or mental disability materially affecting the ability to perform the duties of  
6           the profession in a competent manner.
- 7           f. The performance of any dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct likely  
8           to deceive, defraud, or harm the public.
- 9           g. Obtaining any fee by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
- 10          h. Aiding or abetting the practice of the profession by an unlicensed, incompetent,  
11          or impaired person.
- 12          i. The violation of any provision of the rules of the board, or any action, stipulation,  
13          condition, or agreement imposed by the board.
- 14          j. The practice of the profession under a false or assumed name.
- 15          k. The advertising for the practice of the profession in an untrue or deceptive  
16          manner.
- 17          l. The representation to a patient that a manifestly incurable condition, sickness,  
18          disease, or injury can be cured.
- 19          m. The willful or negligent violation of the confidentiality between licensee and  
20          patient, except as required by law.
- 21          n. Gross negligence in the practice of the profession.
- 22          o. Sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation related to the licensee's practice of the  
23          profession.
- 24          p. A continued pattern of inappropriate care.
- 25          q. The imposition by another state or jurisdiction of disciplinary action against a  
26          license or other authorization to practice based upon acts or conduct by the  
27          licensee which would constitute grounds for disciplinary action as set forth in this  
28          section. A certified copy of the record of the action taken by the other state or  
29          jurisdiction is conclusive evidence of that action.
- 30          r. The lack of appropriate documentation in medical records for diagnosis, testing,  
31          and treatment of patients.

1       **43-57-15. Disciplinary proceedings - Appeals.**

- 2       1. Upon the filing of a written and signed complaint that alleges that a licensee practicing  
3       in this state has engaged in conduct identified as grounds for disciplinary action under  
4       this chapter, and which sets forth information upon which a reasonable and prudent  
5       person might believe that further inquiry should be made, the board shall cause the  
6       matter to be investigated.
- 7       2. The board may investigate a complaint on the board's own motion, without requiring  
8       the identity of the complainant to be made a matter of public record, if the board  
9       concludes that good cause exists for preserving the anonymity of the complainant.
- 10      3. If the investigation reveals no grounds to support the complaint, the board, three years  
11      following the date on which the complaint was filed, shall expunge the complaint from  
12      the licensee's individual record in the board's office.
- 13      4. If the investigation reveals grounds to support the complaint, the board shall initiate a  
14      disciplinary action by serving upon the licensee a notice of disciplinary action setting  
15      forth the allegations upon which the action is based, as well as a specification of the  
16      issues to be considered and determined.
- 17      5. If a written response contesting the allegations is not received by the board within  
18      twenty days of the date that the notice of disciplinary action was received or refused,  
19      the allegations may be deemed admitted and disciplinary sanctions deemed  
20      appropriate by the board must be imposed.
- 21      6. The board may at any time enter an informal resolution to resolve the complaint or  
22      disciplinary action.
- 23      7. An appeal from the board's final decision may be taken in accordance with chapter  
24      28-32.

25      **43-57-16. Disciplinary proceedings - Cost of prosecution.**

26      In any order or decision issued by the board in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding in  
27      which disciplinary action is imposed against a licensee, the board may direct the licensee to pay  
28      the board a sum not to exceed the reasonable and actual costs, including reasonable attorney's  
29      fees, incurred by the board in the investigation and prosecution of the case. When applicable,  
30      the licensee's license may be suspended until the costs are paid to the board. A licensee may  
31      challenge the reasonableness of any cost item in a hearing under chapter 28-32 before an

1 administrative law judge. The administrative law judge may approve, deny, or modify any cost  
2 item, and the determination of the administrative law judge is final. The administrative hearing  
3 must occur before the licensee's license may be suspended for nonpayment.

4 **43-57-17. Enforcement - Penalty.**

5 A person that violates this chapter is guilty of a class B misdemeanor. In addition to the  
6 criminal penalties provided under this section, the civil remedy of injunction is available to  
7 restrain and enjoin any violation of this chapter without proof of actual damages sustained by  
8 any person.

9 **SECTION 4. APPLICATION.** The terms of the initial state board of integrative health care  
10 may be for less than two years in order to establish staggered terms with no more than two  
11 members' terms expiring in any year.