

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**DRAFT**

LLS NO. 25-0321.02 Clare Haffner x6137

**SENATE BILL**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Pelton R., Amabile**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Boesenecker and Weinberg,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS**  
102              **REGISTERED UNDER THE "NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR ACT", AND,**  
103              **IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING CHANGES TO THE**  
104              **NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR FORMULARY.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill clarifies that the existing naturopathic doctor formulary (existing formulary) includes prescription classes of medicines and clarifies what the practice of naturopathic medicine includes. In addition,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

the bill creates a new formulary for certain naturopathic doctors, which new formulary includes:

- All legend drugs, other than schedule I or II controlled substances or devices identified in the federal "Controlled Substances Act";
- For a naturopathic doctor with a federal drug enforcement administration registration, anabolic steroids listed on schedule III of the "Uniform Controlled Substances Act of 2013"; and
- All drugs listed on schedules IV and V of the "Uniform Controlled Substances Act of 2013", except for benzodiazepines, oncological chemotherapeutics, and narcotics (new formulary).

Before obtaining, dispensing, administering, injecting, ordering, or prescribing any of the medicines or devices included in the new formulary, a naturopathic doctor who is registered with the department of regulatory agencies (department) must provide proof of:

- Completion of 12 hours of pharmacological continuing education pertinent to or reflective of the naturopathic formulary;
- Passage of the elective pharmacology examination of the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations; or
- Licensure in good standing in another state that has equivalent prescribing authority.

A naturopathic doctor who does not provide such proof is limited to the medicines and devices contained within the existing formulary.

The bill prohibits a naturopathic doctor from prescribing:

- A medicine or device to an individual under 18 years of age; or
- Antipsychotics or ketamine to an individual of any age unless recommended by the naturopathic medicine advisory committee and approved by the director of the division of professions and occupations in the department (director).

The bill requires an individual applying for issuance, renewal, or reinstatement of a registration as a naturopathic doctor on or after September 1, 2025, to pass a pharmacology examination administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners or a nationally recognized, director-approved successor entity. Upon passage of the exam, the individual is able to obtain, dispense, administer, inject, order, or prescribe any of the medicines or devices included in the new formulary.

For the renewal of a naturopathic doctor's registration on or after June 1, 2026, the bill requires a naturopathic doctor to complete 8 hours per year of continuing education in pharmacology.

Lastly, the bill prohibits a naturopathic doctor from administering

intravenous therapy without first being certified by a nationally recognized, director-approved entity.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-250-103, **amend**  
3 (12); and **add** (14) as follows:

4 **12-250-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 250, unless the  
5 context otherwise requires:

6 (12) "Naturopathic formulary" means the list of PRESCRIPTION  
7 AND nonprescription classes of medicines AND DEVICES determined by the  
8 director that naturopathic doctors use in the practice of naturopathic  
9 medicine. "Naturopathic formulary" ALSO includes any prescription AND  
10 NONPRESCRIPTION substance or device that is authorized under this article  
11 250.

12 (14) "NPLEX" MEANS THE NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS  
13 LICENSING EXAMINATIONS, OR A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED,  
14 DIRECTOR-APPROVED SUCCESSOR EXAMINATION, ADMINISTERED BY THE  
15 NORTH AMERICAN BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC EXAMINERS, OR A  
16 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, DIRECTOR-APPROVED SUCCESSOR ENTITY.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-250-104, **amend**  
18 (2)(c)(II) as follows:

19 **12-250-104. Naturopathic medicine advisory committee -**  
20 **creation - membership - duties.** (2) The advisory committee shall meet  
21 at least once each year to:

22 (c) (II) Make recommendations to the director on whether there  
23 should be additions TO THE NATUROPATHIC FORMULARY, other than  
24 SCHEDULE I OR II controlled substances ~~to the naturopathic formulary.~~  
25 ~~Possible additions may include only biological substances including~~

1 ~~vitamins, minerals, nutritive substances, extracts, and their products and~~  
2 ~~residues~~ OR DEVICES IDENTIFIED IN THE FEDERAL "CONTROLLED  
3 SUBSTANCES ACT", 21 U.S.C. SEC. 801 ET SEQ.

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-250-105, **add**  
5 (1)(d.5) as follows:

6 **12-250-105. Director powers and duties - rules.** (1) In addition  
7 to any other powers and duties granted or imposed on the director under  
8 this article 250 or articles 20 and 30 of this title 12, the director shall:

9 (d.5) CONSULT WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT LEAST ONCE  
10 EACH CALENDAR YEAR TO DISCUSS REVISIONS TO THE NATUROPATHIC  
11 FORMULARY; AND

12 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-250-106, **amend**  
13 (1)(b), (1)(c)(I) introductory portion, and (2)(a); and **add** (1)(c.5), (1.5),  
14 (2)(a.3), and (2)(a.5) as follows:

15 **12-250-106. Practice of naturopathic medicine by**  
16 **naturopathic doctors - exclusions - protected activities - definition -**  
17 **rules.** (1) The practice of naturopathic medicine by a naturopathic doctor  
18 includes the following:

19 (b) ~~The use of~~ FOR THE PURPOSE OF DIAGNOSING AND  
20 EVALUATING INJURIES, DISEASES, AND CONDITIONS IN THE HUMAN BODY:

21 (I) PERFORMING physical examinations, ORIFICIAL EXAMINATIONS,  
22 ULTRASOUNDS, PHLEBOTOMIES, THERAPEUTIC PHLEBOTOMIES, AND OTHER  
23 DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES COMMONLY USED IN GENERAL PRACTICE; and  
24 ~~the~~

25 (II) Ordering ~~of~~ clinical, laboratory, and radiological diagnostic  
26 procedures, CLINICAL LABORATORY TESTS OR EXAMINATIONS, AND  
27 PHYSIOLOGICAL FUNCTION TESTS from licensed or certified health-care

1 facilities or laboratories; ~~for the purpose of diagnosing and evaluating~~  
2 ~~injuries, diseases, and conditions in the human body;~~

3 (c) (I) Obtaining, dispensing, administering, INJECTING, ordering,  
4 or prescribing ~~as specified,~~ medicines AND DEVICES listed in the  
5 naturopathic formulary, which, ~~includes~~ FOR NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS  
6 WHO DO NOT PROVIDE THE PROOF REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c.5)(II) OF  
7 THIS SECTION, INCLUDE:

8 (c.5) (I) OBTAINING, DISPENSING, ADMINISTERING, ORDERING, OR  
9 PRESCRIBING MEDICINES AND DEVICES LISTED IN THE NATUROPATHIC  
10 FORMULARY, WHICH, ON AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, FOR  
11 NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS WHO COMPLY WITH SUBSECTION (1)(c.5)(II) OF  
12 THIS SECTION OR ARE REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-250-107 ON  
13 OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, INCLUDE:

14 (A) ALL LEGEND DRUGS NOT IDENTIFIED AS SCHEDULE I OR II  
15 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES OR DEVICES IN THE FEDERAL "CONTROLLED  
16 SUBSTANCES ACT", 21 U.S.C. SEC. 801 ET SEQ.;

17 (B) WITH A VALID REGISTRATION FROM THE FEDERAL DRUG  
18 ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, SCHEDULE III ANABOLIC STEROIDS, AS  
19 LISTED IN SECTION 18-18-205;

20 (C) ALL DRUGS IN SCHEDULES IV AND V, AS LISTED IN SECTIONS  
21 18-18-206 AND 18-18-207, RESPECTIVELY, EXCLUDING ALL  
22 BENZODIAZEPINES, ONCOLOGICAL CHEMOTHERAPEUTICS, AND NARCOTICS;

23 (D) BARRIER CONTRACEPTIVES, EXCLUDING INTRAUTERINE  
24 DEVICES;

25 (E) OXYGEN;

26 (F) VITAMINS, MINERALS, TRACE MINERALS, ENZYMES, AND FOOD;

27 (G) BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING EXTRACTS AND THEIR

1 PRODUCTS AND RESIDUES;  
2 (H) VACCINES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACIP GUIDELINES, FOR  
3 PATIENTS WHO ARE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER;  
4 (I) TOPICAL PREPARATIONS;  
5 (J) CONTINUOUS POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE DEVICES;  
6 (K) CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORING DEVICES;  
7 (L) HOMEOPATHIC PREPARATIONS;  
8 (M) ALL AMINO ACIDS AND AMINO ACID COMBINATIONS;  
9 (N) ALL BOTANICAL EXTRACTS AND THEIR DERIVATIVES;  
10 (O) ELECTROLYTES AND FLUID REPLACEMENTS;  
11 (P) HORMONES; AND  
12 (Q) ANY ADDITIONS TO THE NATUROPATHIC FORMULARY AS  
13 DETERMINED BY THE DIRECTOR BY RULE.

14 (II) A NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR WHO IS REGISTERED PURSUANT TO  
15 THIS ARTICLE 250 ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, SHALL NOT OBTAIN,  
16 DISPENSE, ADMINISTER, INJECT, ORDER, OR PRESCRIBE MEDICINES OR  
17 DEVICES LISTED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c.5)(I) OF THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
18 NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR PROVIDES PROOF TO THE DIRECTOR, IN THE FORM  
19 AND MANNER DETERMINED BY THE DIRECTOR, OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

20 (A) COMPLETION OF TWELVE HOURS OF PHARMACOLOGICAL  
21 CONTINUING EDUCATION PERTINENT TO OR REFLECTIVE OF THE  
22 NATUROPATHIC FORMULARY;

23 (B) PASSAGE, ON OR AFTER AUGUST 2017, OF THE ELECTIVE  
24 PHARMACOLOGY EXAMINATION OF THE NPLEX OR AN ALTERNATIVE  
25 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY EXAMINATION ADMINISTERED BY A  
26 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, DIRECTOR-APPROVED SUCCESSOR ENTITY, AS  
27 DETERMINED BY THE DIRECTOR BY RULE; OR

1 (C) LICENSURE IN GOOD STANDING IN ANOTHER STATE AND WHO  
2 HAS EQUIVALENT PRESCRIBING AUTHORITY.

3 (III) A NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR WHO COMPLIES WITH SUBSECTION  
4 (1)(c.5)(II) OF THIS SECTION MAY OBTAIN MEDICATIONS DESCRIBED IN  
5 SUBSECTION (1)(c.5)(I) OF THIS SECTION FROM A MANUFACTURER,  
6 WHOLESALER, OR IN-STATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG OUTLET REGISTERED OR  
7 LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 280  
8 OF THIS TITLE 12. AN ENTITY THAT PROVIDES A MEDICATION DESCRIBED  
9 IN SUBSECTION (1)(c.5)(I) OF THIS SECTION TO A NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR  
10 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION, AND THAT RELIES IN GOOD FAITH  
11 UPON THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE NATUROPATHIC  
12 DOCTOR, IS NOT SUBJECT TO LIABILITY FOR PROVIDING THE MEDICATION.

13 (1.5) ON AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, A NATUROPATHIC  
14 DOCTOR WHO IS REGISTERED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 250, INCLUDING  
15 THOSE REGISTERED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, SHALL NOT  
16 ADMINISTER INTRAVENOUS THERAPY UNLESS THE NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR  
17 IS CERTIFIED BY A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, DIRECTOR-APPROVED  
18 ENTITY, AS DETERMINED BY THE DIRECTOR BY RULE, AS QUALIFIED TO  
19 ADMINISTER INTRAVENOUS THERAPY.

20 (2) A naturopathic doctor shall not:

21 (a) Prescribe, dispense, administer, or inject a SCHEDULE I OR II  
22 controlled substance or device identified in the federal "Controlled  
23 Substances Act", 21 U.S.C. sec. 801 et seq., as amended;

24 (a.3) PRESCRIBE MEDICINE OR A DEVICE TO AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER  
25 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE;

26 (a.5) PRESCRIBE ANTIPSYCHOTICS OR KETAMINE TO AN INDIVIDUAL  
27 OF ANY AGE UNLESS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND

1 APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR;

2 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-250-107, **amend**  
3 (2)(d) and (2)(e); and **add** (2)(f) as follows:

4 **12-250-107. Registration required - qualifications -**  
5 **examination - registration by endorsement - rules.** (2) An applicant  
6 for a registration to practice as a naturopathic doctor in this state shall  
7 submit an application to the director in a form and manner determined by  
8 the director by rule, accompanied by the fee required pursuant to section  
9 12-20-105. The director shall issue a registration to practice as a  
10 naturopathic doctor to an applicant upon receipt of satisfactory proof that  
11 the applicant:

12 (d) Has successfully passed either a director-approved  
13 examination or ~~a comprehensive competency-based national naturopathic~~  
14 ~~licensing examination administered by the North American Board of~~  
15 ~~Naturopathic Examiners or a nationally recognized, director-approved~~  
16 ~~successor entity~~ THE NPLEX, as determined by the director by rule; ~~and~~

17 (e) Has not had a license or other authorization to practice as a  
18 naturopathic doctor or other health-care license, registration, or  
19 certification denied, revoked, or suspended by Colorado or any other  
20 jurisdiction for reasons that relate to the applicant's ability to skillfully  
21 and safely practice naturopathic medicine, unless the license, registration,  
22 or certification is reinstated to good standing by Colorado or another  
23 jurisdiction; AND

24 (f) BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, HAS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED  
25 THE PHARMACOLOGY PORTION OF THE NPLEX OR A PHARMACOLOGY  
26 EXAMINATION ADMINISTERED BY A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED,  
27 DIRECTOR-APPROVED SUCCESSOR ENTITY, AS DETERMINED BY THE



1 DIRECTOR BY RULE. THIS SUBSECTION (2)(f) APPLIES TO APPLICANTS WHO  
2 SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE, RENEWAL, OR REINSTATEMENT OF  
3 A REGISTRATION ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2025.

4 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-250-109, **amend**  
5 (1)(b)(II) and (1)(b)(III); and **add** (1)(b)(IV) as follows:

6 **12-250-109. Continuing professional competency - rules.**

7 (1) (b) The director shall adopt rules establishing a continuing  
8 professional competency program that includes, at a minimum, the  
9 following elements:

10 (II) Development, execution, and documentation of a learning  
11 plan based on the assessment; ~~and~~

12 (III) Periodic demonstration of knowledge and skills through  
13 documentation of activities necessary to ensure continuing competency  
14 in the profession; except that a naturopathic doctor need not retake any  
15 examination required by section 12-250-107 ~~(2)(d)~~ for initial registration;

16 AND

17 (IV) FOR REGISTRATION RENEWALS ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 1,  
18 2026, EIGHT HOURS PER YEAR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IN  
19 PHARMACOLOGY. THE DIRECTOR SHALL NOT INCREASE THE TOTAL  
20 NUMBER OF HOURS OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY THAT A  
21 NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR MUST COMPLETE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

22 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-30-111, **amend**  
23 (4)(a)(IV) and (4)(a)(V); and **add** (4)(a)(VI) as follows:

24 **12-30-111. Electronic prescribing of controlled substances -**  
25 **exceptions - rules - definitions.** (4) As used in this section:

26 (a) "Prescriber" means:

27 (IV) An optometrist licensed pursuant to article 275 of this title

1 12; or

2 (V) A podiatrist licensed pursuant to article 290 of this title 12; OR

3 (VI) A NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR REGISTERED PURSUANT TO  
4 ARTICLE 250 OF THIS TITLE 12.

5 **SECTION 8. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
8 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
9 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
10 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
11 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
12 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
13 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.