


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

15 APR 17 2011

SENATE
S. No. 2173

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Naturopathic medicine or naturopathy is a complementary and alternative medicine. Naturopathic practice may include different modalities such as manual therapy, hydrotherapy, herbalism, acupuncture, counseling, environmental medicine, aromatherapy, orthomolecular medicine, nutritional counseling, homeopathy, and chiropractic. Practitioners emphasize a holistic approach to patient care. Naturopathy has its origins in a variety of world medicine practices, including the Ayurveda of India and Nature Cure of Europe.*

Naturopaths use standard medical diagnostic techniques to treat disease with natural medicines and therapies in lieu of pharmaceutical drugs and surgeries. These natural approaches include clinical nutrition, botanical medicine, homeopathy, lifestyle counseling, naturopathic physical medicine, natural childbirth and basic training in oriental medicine.

At present, the Philippines does not have any laws to regulate the practice of naturopathy. Individuals who complete a home study course in as little as six (6) weeks can serve as a naturopath. This is a cause for concern as people's health and lives are put at risk by the improper practice of naturopathy. Hence, this bill seeks to establish educational requirements for the practice of naturopathic medicine in the Philippines. Specifically, to practice naturopathy in Philippines, the applicant for a professional license must a graduate of an accredited four-year residence training program; pass a national examination; be licensed as a naturopath in another jurisdiction; and meet any and all other requirements as set forth by the Board of Examiners.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturopathic_medicine

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1 AN ACT
2 REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE OR NATUROPATHY
3 IN THE PHILIPPINES

4 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
5 *assembled:*

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Naturopathic Medicine Act
7 of 2008.”

8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is a policy of the State to promote the general
9 welfare of the people. Towards this end, the State shall enact a law to regulate the practice of
10 naturopathic medicine or naturopathy in the Philippines.

11 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the term:

12 (A) “Diagnose” means to examine in any manner another person, parts of a person’s
13 body, or substances, fluids, or materials excreted, taken, or removed from a person’s body or
14 produced by a person’s body to determine the source, kind, or extent of a disease or other
15 physical condition.

16 (B) “Minor Office Procedure” means the use of operative, electrical, or other methods for
17 the repair of, and care incidental to, superficial lacerations and abrasions, the removal of
18 foreign bodies located in superficial tissues, and the use of antiseptics and local anesthetics in
19 connection with these methods. The term includes the use of local anesthesia applied topically
20 or by injection, whether natural or prescription, in superficial tissues associated with the
21 performance of minor office procedures. The term shall not include general or spinal anesthesia,
22 major surgery, surgery of the body cavities, or specialized surgeries, including plastic surgery or
23 surgery involving the eyes, tendons, ligaments, or major blood vessels.

1 (C) "Natural Antibiotics" means antimicrobial, antifungal, and antiprotozoal agents that
2 are naturally occurring substances or manufactured substance that are substantially identical to
3 the naturally occurring substances.

4 (D) "Natural Medicines" mean:

5 (1) Food, food extracts, and dietary supplements as defined by Republic Act
6 No. 7394, as amended, otherwise known as The Consumer Act of the Philippines;

7 (2) Homeopathic remedies;

8 (3) Plant substances that are not designated as prescription drugs or controlled
9 substances;

10 (4) Over-the-counter medications;

11 (5) Prescriptions that are consistent with the competent practice of naturopathy;
12 and

13 (6) Substances prepared according to the homeopathic pharmacopeia of the
14 United States of America.

15 (E) "Naturopathic Childbirth" means uncomplicated natural childbirth assisted by a
16 naturopathic physician. The term includes the use of natural substances, ophthalmic antibiotics,
17 emergency childbirth medicines, and simple uncomplicated episiotomies, but does not include
18 the use of forceps delivery, general or spinal anesthesia, caesarean section, or induced
19 abortion.

20 (F) "Naturopathic Medicine" or "Naturopathy" means a system of primary health care for
21 the prevention, diagnosis, and care of human health conditions, injuries, and diseases that uses
22 education and natural substances and remedies to support and stimulate the individual's intrinsic
23 self-healing processes.

24 (G) "Naturopathic Mobilization Therapy" means manually administering mechanical
25 treatment of body structures or tissues to restore the normal physiological function of the body
26 by normalizing and balancing the musculoskeletal system of the body. The term does not
27 include osseous manipulation.

28 (H) "Naturopathic Physician" means a person who holds the person out to the public as
29 licensed to practice naturopathic medicine or who practices naturopathic medicine under this Act.

1 (I) "Naturopathic Physical Medicine" means the use of the physical agents of air, water,
2 heat, cold, sound, light, and electromagnetic nonionizing radiation and the physical
3 modalities of electrotherapy, biofeedback, diathermy, ultraviolet light, ultrasound,
4 hydrotherapy, naturopathic mobilization therapy, and exercise. The term does not include the
5 practice of physical therapy, acupuncture, or chiropractic.

6 (J) "Topical preparations" means topical analgesics, anesthetics, antiseptics, scabicides,
7 antifungals, and antibacterials.

8 SECTION 4. *Practice of Naturopathic Medicine and Use of Title "Naturopathic*
9 *Physician"*. – Only a person licensed or otherwise authorized under this act shall practice
10 naturopathic medicine or use the title "Naturopath", "Doctor of Naturopathy", "Doctor of
11 Naturopathic Medicine", or use the initials, "ND", or "NMD" or hold oneself out to the public
12 that they practice naturopathy in any of its forms.

13 SECTION 5. *Philippine Board of Naturopathic Medicine*. – (A) A Philippine Board of
14 Naturopathic Medicine shall be appointed in the same manner as the appointment of Members of
15 other professional boards to assist the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) on matters of
16 professional licensing.

17 (B) The Board shall be composed of not less than seven (7) licensed naturopathic
18 physicians who meet the requirements set forth in this Act. An Executive Secretary to the Board
19 shall be appointed and shall be either a licensed naturopathic physician or a non-physician,
20 deemed qualified.

21 (C) There shall be two (2) members of the Board from the medical or osteopathic
22 community and no one discipline shall comprise both members.

23 SECTION 6. *Requirements for a Professional License*. – To qualify for a license as a
24 naturopathic physician, an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

25 (A) *Application*. – The applicant shall file an application with the PRC.

26 (B) *Education*. – The applicant shall have received an education, including a degree of
27 Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine, "N.D.", from an approved naturopathic college.

1 For purposes of this section, the term “approved naturopathic college” means a college
2 or residential program granting the degree of Doctor of Naturopathy or Doctor of Naturopathic
3 Medicine that:

4 (1) Is accredited by an agency recognized by the government, the council for
5 naturopathic medical education or its successor, or approved by the Board which meets
6 the standards generally recognized and being met by other licensing jurisdictions;

7 (2) Has candidate for accreditation status with the accrediting agency; or

8 (3) Has been approved by the board after the college or residential program was
9 investigated and found to meet education standards equivalent to those established by
10 the accrediting agency and which meets the standards generally recognized and being
11 met by other licensing jurisdictions;

12 (C) *Experience.* – The applicant shall have had experience as a naturopathic physician
13 satisfactory to the board and in accordance with the commissioner’s regulations;

14 (D) *Examination.* – The applicant shall have passed an examination satisfactory to the
15 board and in accordance with the commissioner’s regulations which may include the
16 naturopathic physicians licensing examination or its successor; or other test that maintains the
17 standards generally accepted nationally;

18 (E) *Age.* – The applicant shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;

19 (F) *Citizenship.* – The applicant shall be a Filipino citizen;

20 (G) *Character.* – The applicant shall be of good moral character as determined by the
21 Board; and

22 (H) *Fees.* – The applicant shall pay a fee as determined by the PRC for admission to a
23 Board-conducted examination and for an initial license; a for each reexamination; and a fee for
24 an initial license for persons not requiring admission to a Board-conducted examination;

25 SECTION 7. *Exempt Persons.* – The following persons under the following limitations
26 may practice naturopathic medicine within the Philippines without a license:

1 (A) Any naturopathic physician who is employed as a resident in a public hospital,
2 provided such practice is limited to such hospital and is under the supervision of a licensed
3 naturopathic physician or other licensed physician

4 (B) Any naturopathic physician who is licensed in another country and who is
5 meeting a naturopathic physician licensed in the Philippines, for purposes of consultation,
6 provided such practice is limited to such consultation;

7 (C) Any naturopathic physician who is licensed in another country, who is visiting a
8 medical school or teaching hospital in the Philippines, receive naturopathic medical or medical
9 instruction for a period not to exceed six (6) months or to conduct naturopathic medical or
10 medical instruction, provided such practice is limited to such instruction and is under the
11 supervision of a licensed naturopathic physician or other licensed physician;

12 (D) Any naturopathic physician who is authorized by a foreign government to practice
13 in relation to its diplomatic, consular or maritime staffs, provided such practice is limited to such
14 staffs;

15 (E) Any commissioned naturopathic medical officer who is serving in the United States
16 Armed Forces or Public Health Service or any naturopathic physician who is employed in the
17 United States Veterans Administration, provided such practice is limited to such service or
18 employment;

19 (F) Any intern who is employed by a hospital and who is a graduate of a naturopathic
20 medical school, provided such practice is limited to such hospital and is under the supervision
21 of a licensed naturopathic physician or other licensed physician;

22 (G) Any naturopathic medical student who is performing a clinical clerkship or
23 similar function in a hospital and who is matriculated in a naturopathic medical school which
24 meets satisfactory standards, provided such practice is limited to such clerkship or similar
25 function in such hospital;

26 (H) A person engaged in the sale of vitamins, health foods, dietary supplements,
27 herbs, or other products of nature, the sale of which is not otherwise prohibited under Philippine
28 law; or

1 (I) A person providing nutritional advice, giving advice concerning proper nutrition,
2 or giving information as to the use and role of food and food ingredients, including dietary
3 supplements, except that providing nutritional advice under this subdivision does not include
4 the authority to practice medicine or surgery, to undertake the treatment or cure of a disease, pain,
5 injury, deformity, or physical or mental condition, or to state that a product might cure a
6 disease, pain, injury, deformity, or other condition other than providing nutritional support for
7 the person.

8 SECTION 8. *Prohibited Acts; Penalties.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to hold
9 himself out to the public as licensed to practice naturopathic medicine or who practices
10 naturopathic medicine under this Act without having acquired a professional license under this
11 Act. The offender shall be punished by a penalty of imprisonment of *arresto mayor*, or a fine of
12 not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, taking
13 into consideration all attending circumstances.

14 This section shall not apply to those persons exempt from acquiring a professional license
15 for the practice of naturopathic medicine under Section 7 of this Act.

16 SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the
17 passage of this Act, the Board of Naturopathic Medicine shall promulgate the necessary rules
18 and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

19 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any part hereof, is held invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the remainder of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and
21 subsisting.

22 SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
23 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
24 with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

1 SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3 Approved,

/rgs