

April 5, 2007

H 1358. CONSUMER HEALTH FREEDOM ACT. Filed 4/5/07. *TO ESTABLISH THE CONSUMER HEALTH FREEDOM ACT FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.*

Enacts new GS Chapter 90E as follows. GS 90E-3(1) defines *complementary or alternative health care service* to include, among other things, acupressure, aromatherapy, folk practices, herbology or herbalism, homeopathy, Native American medicine, and naturopathy. GS 90E-4 provides that a person who provides complementary or alternative health care services but does not hold a license, permit, etc., under Article 1 of GS Chapter 90 is not in violation of GS 90-18(c) for unlicensed practice or any other allied health occupation law for unlicensed practice unless the person engages in listed acts, including prescribing drug, performing surgery, holding oneself out as physician, etc. GS 90E-5 requires a person providing health care services under the act who is advertising or charging a fee for services to, before providing services, disclose specified information to the client in a written statement, including that the person is not a physician and the nature of health care services to be provided. When providing health care services for the first time, requires the person to obtain written acknowledgement from a client stating that the client has been provided with this information. Lists exemptions and provides for a person's right to seek relief for negligence or other civil remedies against a person providing services. Effective June 1, 2007.

Intro. by Parmon, Johnson, Wiley, Harrison. GS 90E