

March 27, 2009

S 1043. NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS LICENSING ACT. Filed 3/26/09. *TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS LICENSURE ACT AND TO CHANGE THE OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION FOR PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE FROM A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR TO A CLASS I FELONY.*

Adds new Article 42 to GS Chapter 90, as title indicates. Effective May 1, 2010, prohibits a person from practicing as a naturopathic physician without a state license issued pursuant to the bill, with specified exemptions. Defines *naturopathic medicine* generally as a system of natural health care that employs diagnosis and treatment using natural therapies and diagnostic techniques. Sets out the techniques that may and that may not be used by naturopathic physicians. Requires naturopathic doctor to designate a licensed physician to supervise the naturopathic doctor's ordering and interpretation of lab tests and imaging studies. Makes violation of proposed GS 90-805 a Class I felony. Establishes the NC Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Board (Board), with seven members (three appointed by the Governor and two each upon recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representative and the President Pro Tem. of the Senate, with each member having to come from specified groups (to be appointed by January 1, 2010). Charges Board with administration of the licensing program. Sets out qualifications for licensure as a naturopathic physician, fees that may be charged by the Board, and the Board's disciplinary authority. Permits criminal records checks for licensees and persons seeking licenses. Creates an Advisory Council to assist the Board in administration of the licensing program. Amends GS 90-18 to make the practice of medicine without a license a Class I felony.

Intro. by Kinnaird. GS 90, 114