

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0269

Naturopathic medicine licensure.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) McCann, Angelos, Brady,  
Guggenmos and Lucas and Senator(s) Cooper

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to professions and occupations; amending  
2 the Wyoming acupuncture practice act to include  
3 naturopathic medicine; amending the powers of the Wyoming  
4 board of acupuncture; regulating the practice of  
5 naturopathic medicine; providing penalties; requiring  
6 rulemaking; and providing for effective dates.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 33-49-101, 33-49-102(a)(v), (vi) and  
11 by creating new paragraphs (x) through (xv), 33-49-103(a)  
12 and (b), 33-49-104, 33-49-106(a)(ii) by creating new  
13 subparagraphs (D), (E) and (c), 33-49-107(b)(intro), (i),  
14 (c)(intro), by creating new subsections (d) through (f) and  
15 by amending and renumbering (e) as (g), 33-49-108 by

1 creating new subsections (b) and (c) and by amending and  
2 renumbering (b) and (c) as (d) and (e),  
3 33-49-109(a)(intro), (i), (iii) and by creating new  
4 paragraphs (v) through (ix), 33-49-111(a)(intro), (i),  
5 (iii), (v), (b) and (c) and 33-49-112(b) and (d) are  
6 amended to read:

7

8

#### CHAPTER 49

9

#### ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE AND NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE ACT

10

11

#### **33-49-101. Short title.**

12

13 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the  
14 "Wyoming Acupuncture Practice and Naturopathic Medicine  
15 Act".

16

17

#### **33-49-102. Definitions.**

18

19 (a) As used in this chapter:

20

21

22

23

(v) "Board" means the Wyoming board of  
acupuncture and naturopathic medicine created under this  
chapter;

1

2 (vi) "License to practice acupuncture" means a  
3 license to practice acupuncture in this state issued by the  
4 board pursuant to this chapter and consistent with the  
5 scope of practice a person is qualified to perform as a  
6 result of their NCCAOM diplomate status, post graduate  
7 training, NADA certificate of training completion or as  
8 otherwise authorized by the board;

9

10 (x) "Approved naturopathic medical program"  
11 means a naturopathic medical education program in the  
12 United States or Canada that provides the degree of doctor  
13 of naturopathy or doctor of naturopathic medicine, that  
14 includes graduate level, full-time, didactic and supervised  
15 clinical training and is either accredited or has achieved  
16 candidacy status for accreditation by the nationally  
17 recognized accrediting body Council on Naturopathic Medical  
18 Education for naturopathic medical programs;

19

20 (xi) "CNME" means the Council on Naturopathic  
21 Medical Education or its successor organization that  
22 substantially meets the same educational standards as CNME;

23

1           (xii) "License to practice naturopathic  
2 medicine" means a license to practice naturopathic medicine  
3 consistent with the scope of practice a person is qualified  
4 to perform as a result of the person's post graduate  
5 education, NABNE exam, experience and continuing competence  
6 or as otherwise authorized by the board;

7  
8           (xiii) "Licensed naturopathic physician" means a  
9 person authorized and licensed to practice naturopathic  
10 medicine under this chapter;

11  
12           (xiv) "NABNE" means the North American Board of  
13 Naturopathic Examiners or its successor organization;

14  
15           (xv) "Naturopathic medicine" means a system of  
16 healthcare for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of  
17 human health conditions, injury and disease, the promotion  
18 of health and the support and stimulation of a patient's  
19 inherent self-healing processes through patient education  
20 through the use of naturopathic therapies and therapeutic  
21 substances.

22

1           33-49-103. Board created; members; appointment;  
2 terms; qualification; removal; vacancies.

3  
4           (a) The Wyoming board of acupuncture and naturopathic  
5 medicine is created to implement and administer the  
6 provisions of this chapter. The board shall consist of ~~five~~  
7 ~~(5)~~ nine (9) members who are legal residents of Wyoming.  
8 The board shall consist of ~~one (1) member~~ two (2) members  
9 of the public, ~~one (1) member who is~~ two (2) members who  
10 are NCCAOM certified, ~~two (2) members who have~~ one (1)  
11 member who has been engaged in the practice of acupuncture  
12 for a period of not less than five (5) years immediately  
13 preceding appointment to the initial board, three (3)  
14 members who are naturopathic physicians who are graduates  
15 of a CNME accredited program and who have passed a NABNE  
16 naturopathic licensing examination and one (1) member who  
17 is a health care professional licensed pursuant to this  
18 title other than this chapter.

19  
20           (b) The governor shall appoint the members of the  
21 board. Of the initial members appointed to the board, ~~two~~  
22 ~~(2)~~ who are not naturopathic physicians, three (3) members  
23 shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and three

1 (3) members shall be appointed for a term of four (4)  
2 years. Of the initially appointed naturopathic physician  
3 members two (2) shall be appointed for a term of two years  
4 and one (1) shall be appointed for a term of four (4)  
5 years. Thereafter, the terms of office shall be four (4)  
6 years. Each member shall serve until the member's successor  
7 is appointed and qualified. No member shall serve more than  
8 two (2) consecutive full terms.

9

10 **33-49-104. Board meetings; elections; quorum.**

11

12 The board shall meet at least once each year and elect a  
13 chairman at the first meeting each year. The board may  
14 convene at the request of the chairman or as determined by  
15 the board for any other meeting as may be deemed necessary  
16 to transact its business. Meetings may be carried out via  
17 telecommunications. ~~Three (3)~~ Five (5) board members shall  
18 constitute a quorum.

19

20 **33-49-106. Board responsibilities and duties.**

21

22 (a) The board shall:

23

1           (ii) Determine the following standards for  
2 licensees:

3

4                   (D) Scope of practice;

5

6                   (E) Practice standards.

7

8           (c) All fees collected by the board shall be  
9 deposited by the state treasurer to the credit of the  
10 Wyoming board of acupuncture and naturopathic medicine  
11 account. Disbursements from the account shall not exceed  
12 the monies credited to it. The account shall be used by the  
13 board to defray costs incurred in the administration of  
14 this chapter.

15

16           **33-49-107. Licensure required; components;  
17 exemptions; other licensed health care professionals.**

18

19           (b) Any license to practice acupuncture or  
20 naturopathic medicine issued under this chapter shall:

21

22                   (i) Be issued in the name of the licensed  
23 acupuncturist or naturopathic physician;

1

2 (c) The following persons are exempt from this  
3 chapter's ~~licensure~~ license to practice acupuncture  
4 requirements:

5

6 (d) Beginning January 1, 2026, unless the person is  
7 licensed to practice naturopathic medicine under this  
8 chapter, no person shall:

9

10 (i) Practice, attempt or offer to practice  
11 naturopathic medicine without a valid, unexpired, unrevoked  
12 and unsuspended license issued under this chapter;

13

14 (ii) Represent oneself as licensed to practice  
15 naturopathic medicine or hold himself out to be a "licensed  
16 Naturopathic Physician," "licensed Physician of  
17 Naturopathic Medicine," "licensed Naturopathic Doctor,"  
18 "Naturopathic Doctor," "Naturopath," or "ND";

19

20 (iii) Use any words, abbreviations, figures,  
21 configuration of letters including N.D. or N.M.D., titles,  
22 signs, cards or devices tending to imply that the person is



1 a licensed naturopathic physician unless the person is  
2 licensed.

3  
4 (e) The following persons are exempt from this  
5 chapter's license to practice naturopathic medicine  
6 requirements:

7  
8 (i) A naturopathic physician licensed to  
9 practice naturopathic medicine in another jurisdiction  
10 while teaching, demonstrating or providing naturopathic  
11 medicine in connection with teaching or participating in an  
12 educational seminar in Wyoming. Any exemption under this  
13 paragraph shall not exceed sixty (60) days cumulatively in  
14 one (1) calendar year;

15  
16 (ii) A naturopathic physician licensed in  
17 another jurisdiction who enters this state to provide  
18 naturopathic medicine during a natural disaster or a public  
19 health emergency, as declared by the governor under W.S.  
20 35-4-115(a)(i);

21  
22 (iii) With board approval, a person in training  
23 may practice naturopathic medicine provided all services

1 are performed under the direct supervision of a licensed  
2 naturopathic physician;

3  
4 (iv) A student enrolled in an approved  
5 naturopathic medical educational program, provided that the  
6 practice of naturopathic medicine by a student is performed  
7 pursuant to a course of instruction or an assignment from  
8 an instructor and under the supervision of the instructor  
9 who is a licensee or a duly licensed professional in the  
10 instructed field.

11  
12 (f) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to  
13 prohibit or restrict:

14  
15 (i) Any other licensed, certified or registered  
16 health care provider in this state from practicing  
17 naturopathic medicine within the provider's authorized  
18 scope of practice;

19  
20 (ii) Any person that sells a vitamin or herb  
21 from providing information about the vitamin or herb;

22

1           (iii) Any person who is licensed to practice  
2 naturopathic medicine in another jurisdiction and who  
3 enters this state to consult with a naturopathic physician  
4 of this state, provided that the consultation is limited to  
5 examination, recommendation or testimony in litigation; or  
6

7           (iv) Any person who is not licensed as a  
8 naturopathic physician from recommending ayurvedic  
9 medicine, herbal remedies, nutritional advice, homeopathy  
10 or other therapy.  
11

12       ~~(e)~~(g) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to  
13 prohibit or restrict any other licensed health care  
14 provider in this state from practicing acupuncture within  
15 their statutory scope of practice. However, no person may  
16 represent themselves as an acupuncturist in any manner  
17 unless licensed to practice acupuncture in accordance with  
18 this chapter.  
19

20       **33-49-108. Application for license; renewal and**  
21 **reinstatement; qualifications; fees; reporting.**  
22

1       (b) An applicant for licensure to practice  
2 naturopathic medicine under this chapter shall:

3  
4           (i) Submit a written application verified by  
5 oath in a form the board prescribes;

6  
7           (ii) Submit proof that the applicant:

8  
9           (A) Is a graduate of an approved  
10 naturopathic medical program and has successfully passed a  
11 competency based national naturopathic physician licensing  
12 examination administered by the NABNE or other organization  
13 the board approves that is nationally recognized to  
14 administer a naturopathic physician licensing examination  
15 that represents federal standards of education and  
16 training; or

17  
18           (B) Was previously licensed or certified in  
19 another jurisdiction, provided that when the applicant  
20 secured initial licensure or certification, the  
21 requirements for licensure or certification met standards  
22 that the board determines are substantively comparable to  
23 existing standards and that the license or certificate was

1 not suspended, revoked or otherwise restricted for any  
2 reason.

3  
4 (iii) Have committed no acts that are grounds  
5 for disciplinary action as set forth in W.S. 33-49-111, or  
6 if an act has been committed, the board has, at its  
7 discretion and after investigation, determined that  
8 sufficient restitution has been made;

9  
10 (iv) Remit fees as the board specifies;

11  
12 (v) Meet any additional requirements that the  
13 board may impose by rule.

14  
15 (c) An applicant for licensure under this act shall  
16 provide the board with fingerprints and other information  
17 necessary for a criminal history background check as  
18 provided under W.S. 7-19-201.

19  
20 ~~(b)~~(d) Licenses to practice acupuncture or  
21 naturopathic medicine shall be renewed or reinstated  
22 according to a schedule established by the board pursuant  
23 to this chapter. If a licensee fails to renew a license to

1 practice acupuncture or naturopathic medicine pursuant to  
2 the schedule established by the board, the license shall  
3 expire and the licensee shall not practice acupuncture or  
4 naturopathic medicine in this state.

5  
6 ~~(e)~~(e) An applicant for licensure or licensee shall  
7 report any pending or final administrative or disciplinary  
8 actions, or other judgments, as well as the terms of any  
9 settlement or other disposition of an action or judgment,  
10 against the applicant or licensee involving malpractice or  
11 improper practice of acupuncture or naturopathic medicine,  
12 whether occurring in Wyoming or in any other jurisdiction  
13 upon application for licensure, renewal or reinstatement,  
14 or not later than thirty (30) days after the licensee  
15 becomes aware of such actions or judgments.

16

17 **33-49-109. Licensure by endorsement.**

18

19 (a) The board may issue a license by endorsement to  
20 practice acupuncture or naturopathic medicine in Wyoming to  
21 an applicant who is licensed to practice acupuncture or  
22 naturopathic medicine in another state subject to the  
23 following:

1

2 (i) The other state shall have substantially  
3 equivalent acupuncture or naturopathic physician licensure  
4 requirements as Wyoming, including similar licensure by  
5 endorsement provisions for licensees of this state;

6

7 (iii) The applicant shall not have had a license  
8 to practice acupuncture or naturopathic medicine suspended  
9 or revoked in this state or any other; ~~and~~

10

11 (v) The applicant shall complete an application  
12 for licensure by endorsement in a form the board  
13 prescribes;

14

15 (vi) The applicant shall remit fees as the board  
16 specifies;

17

18 (vii) The applicant shall not have committed any  
19 acts that are grounds for disciplinary action as set forth  
20 in W.S. 33-49-111, or if an act has been committed, the  
21 board may, at its discretion and after investigation,  
22 determine that sufficient restitution has been made;

23

1           (viii) If required by board rule, the applicant  
2 shall have completed to the satisfaction of a majority of  
3 board members a personal interview consisting of inquiry  
4 and oral response to acupuncture or naturopathic knowledge,  
5 personal and professional history and intentions for  
6 practicing acupuncture or naturopathic medicine in this  
7 state;

8  
9           (ix) The applicant shall meet any additional  
10 requirements that the board may impose by rule.

11  
12           **33-49-111. Disciplinary action; suspension and**  
13 **revocation of license; application for reinstatement.**

14  
15           (a) After any hearing conducted pursuant to W.S.  
16 33-49-110, the board may approve, deny, suspend, revoke or  
17 refuse to renew a license to practice acupuncture or  
18 naturopathic medicine or impose probationary conditions on  
19 the license if the licensee or applicant has engaged in  
20 unprofessional conduct. For purposes of this section,  
21 unprofessional conduct includes any of the following:

22



1           (i) Obtaining a license to practice acupuncture  
2 or naturopathic medicine by means of fraud,  
3 misrepresentation or concealment of material facts;  
4

5           (iii) Being convicted of a felony that relates  
6 to the practice of acupuncture or naturopathic medicine or  
7 to the ability to practice acupuncture or naturopathic  
8 medicine;  
9

10          (v) Being negligent in the practice of  
11 acupuncture or naturopathic medicine;  
12

13          (b) An application for reinstatement may be made to  
14 the board not earlier than one (1) year after the date of  
15 the revocation of the license to practice acupuncture or  
16 naturopathic medicine. The board may accept or reject an  
17 application for reinstatement and may hold a hearing to  
18 consider reinstatement. An applicant for reinstatement  
19 aggrieved by any final action of the board may appeal to  
20 the district court pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative  
21 Procedure Act.  
22

1           (c) Upon receipt from the department of family  
2 services of a certified copy of an order from a court to  
3 withhold, suspend or otherwise restrict a license to  
4 practice acupuncture or naturopathic medicine issued by the  
5 board, the board shall notify the party named in the court  
6 order of the withholding, suspension or restriction of the  
7 license in accordance with the terms of the court order. No  
8 appeal under the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act shall  
9 be allowed for a license withheld, suspended or restricted  
10 under this subsection.

11

12           **33-49-112. Violations; penalties; proceedings.**

13

14           (b) The attorney general, the board, any county or  
15 district attorney or any citizen may obtain an injunction  
16 in the name of the state of Wyoming upon the relation of a  
17 complainant enjoining any person from engaging in the  
18 practice of acupuncture or naturopathic medicine without a  
19 license. The district court of the district in which the  
20 offending person resides or the district court of Laramie  
21 county has original jurisdiction of any such injunction  
22 proceedings. An injunction may be issued without proof of  
23 actual damage sustained and upon proof of one (1) or more

1 acts constituting the practice of acupuncture or  
2 naturopathic medicine without a license. The standard of  
3 proof of any violation of this subsection shall be by a  
4 preponderance of the evidence.

5

6 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
7 chapter, the Wyoming Acupuncture Practice and Naturopathic  
8 Medicine Act shall not apply to persons licensed under  
9 title 33, chapter 25 or chapter 26 of the Wyoming statutes.

10

11 **Section 2.** The Wyoming board of acupuncture and  
12 naturopathic medicine shall promulgate all rules necessary  
13 to implement this act.

14

