

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: S3/15/23

A Bill

SENATE BILL 86

5 By: Senator C. Penzo
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY
9 AND REPORT ON THE STATUS OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS
10 IN ARKANSAS AND OTHER STATES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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14 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
15 STUDY AND REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
16 NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS IN ARKANSAS AND
17 OTHER STATES.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Naturopathic physician study and reporting.

23 (a)(1) The Department of Health shall conduct a study regarding
24 naturopathic physicians and the practice of naturopathic medicine.

25 (2) The study shall include without limitation:

26 (A) The number of individuals engaging in the practice of
27 naturopathic medicine in this state;

28 (B) The education credentials of the individuals
29 identified as engaging in the practice of naturopathic medicine in this
30 state;

31 (C) The geographic distribution of individuals engaging in
32 the practice of naturopathic medicine in this state; and

33 (D) A survey of other states to determine:

34 (i) Which states recognize naturopathic physicians,
35 by that title or any other, or the practice of naturopathic medicine in state
36 law; and



1 (ii) For each state that recognizes naturopathic
2 physicians in state law:

3 (a) The methods by which naturopathic
4 physicians are recognized and regulated, whether by licensure, certification,
5 registration, or other lawful recognition;

6 (b) The entity responsible for governance and
7 regulation of naturopathic physicians and the practice of naturopathic
8 medicine and, if the entity is a board or committee, the composition of the
9 board or committee;

10 (c) The initial and ongoing requirements for
11 an individual to be recognized as a naturopathic physician, including
12 educational credentials, continuing education, examination requirements,
13 fees, and other requirements imposed by the state;

14 (d) Any delineation of or limitations to the
15 services an individual licensed as a naturopathic physician may perform and
16 the process for determining such delineation or limitations; and

17 (e) Any provisions in state law or regulation
18 regarding payment for services of naturopathic physicians by Medicaid,
19 commercial insurers, or other payors.

20 (b)(1) The department shall complete the study required by subsection
21 (a) of this section no later than June 30, 2024.

22 (2) The department shall submit a report on the study to:

23 (A) The Governor;

24 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives;

25 (C) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

26 (D) The House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and

27 Labor;

28 (E) The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and

29 Labor;

30 (F) The Secretary of the Department of Health; and

31 (G) The Arkansas State Medical Board.

32 (3) The report shall be made publicly available on the
33 department's website.

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35 /s/C. Penzo
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