

Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB 517

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled
2. **Patron:** Puckett, Phillip P.
3. **Committee:** Education and Health
4. **Title:** Practice of naturopathy; establishes licensure requirements
5. **Summary/Purpose:** Establishes licensure requirements for the practice of naturopathy. This bill establishes criteria for the practice naturopathy, including educational requirements, examinations, scope of practice, requirements for the promulgation of regulations governing the profession, and an advisory board to the Board of Medicine.
6. **Fiscal impact is preliminary (see item 8)**
7. **Budget amendment necessary:** No. There is no clear estimate as to the additional expenditure required for the licensure of naturopaths, however additional nongeneral fund appropriation can be provided administratively once such spending needs are determined.
8. **Fiscal implications:** Although the regulation of naturopaths will clearly have a fiscal impact on the Board of Medicine, the amount and impact on licensure fees is unknown. Costs for the Board of Medicine will increase in licensing and disciplinary functions as well as the operation of another advisory board. The fee structure for professions regulated by the Department of Health Professions (DHP) is established as to offset the anticipated costs of the board. Although the department does not have an exact estimate as to the number of naturopaths in the Commonwealth, it believes there are less than 20.

Each profession regulated by the DHP has a dedicated advisory board, which costs approximately \$2,500 per year. This amount includes four annual meetings for the five advisory members and the associated costs to attend the four annual meetings of the full Board of Medicine. The least expensive biennial renewal fee for an independent profession licensed by the Board of Medicine is \$312. Assuming this fee and 20 naturopaths are licensed, \$6,240 in licensure revenue would be generated each biennium. This revenue would support the cost of maintaining a naturopath advisory board; however it is unlikely the remaining funds would be sufficient to cover the cost of licensure and disciplinary functions.
9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**
Department of Health Professions
10. **Technical amendment necessary:** No

11. Other comments: This bill is a companion to HB 1389.

Date: 1/24/06

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cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources