

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0368	Date: July 23, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Ginal	Bill Status: Signed into Law
Sen. Crowder	Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

BILL TOPIC: REGISTERED NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR TREATING CHILDREN

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase. See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None		

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

The bill allows registered naturopathic doctors to treat children under two years of age if certain conditions are met. The conditions outlined in the bill are similar to those under current law for naturopathic doctors who treat children between the ages of two and eight, with some differences. Specifically, in order to treat a child under the age of two, the bill requires naturopathic doctors to:

- provide the child's parent with the current recommended immunization schedule for children;
- complete five hours per year in education or training in pediatrics in any year that he or she treats children under the age of two;
- require the child's parent to sign an informed consent form prior to providing services;
- develop and execute a written collaborative agreement with a licensed pediatrician or family physician concerning consultations and referrals for children under two years of age; and
- refer a child to a licensed pediatric health care provider, physician, or advanced practice nurse at his or her first visit if the child does not have a pediatric health care provider.

The informed consent form must inform the parent about the naturopathic doctor's registration under the Naturopathic Doctor Act, state that he or she is not a licensed physician, recommend that the child maintain a relationship with a licensed physician, and request permission to collaborate with the child's pediatric health care provider. Naturopathic doctors are required to file information about their collaborative agreements with pediatric health care providers with the Division of Professions and Occupations (DPO) in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) and keep this information up to date. The bill requires DORA to evaluate data concerning the treatment of children under the age of two by naturopathic doctors, including adverse events, during the scheduled 2017 sunset review of the regulation of naturopathic doctors.

Background

House Bill 13-1111 created a registration program for naturopathic doctors in the DPO in DORA. It also prohibited naturopathic doctors from treating children under the age of two, and placed restrictions on naturopathic doctors on treating children between the ages of two and eight.

State Expenditures

The bill increases workload in DORA related to the regulation of naturopathic doctors beginning in FY 2015-16. Initially, this work will include rulemaking and outreach to naturopathic doctors concerning the changes in the Naturopathic Doctor Act. DORA will also be required to maintain information about collaborative agreements entered into by naturopathic doctors who treat children under the age of two. The bill also requires additional data collection and analysis that must be conducted as part of the sunset review of naturopathic doctors. This workload is assumed to be minimal and can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on March 26, 2015.

State and Local Government Contacts

Regulatory Agencies Law