

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	George G., Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies the examination requirements for licensure by the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Examiners to require all applicants to successfully pass the basic science and the core clinical science examinations administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE), along with any additional exams required by the board. Allows the board to waive the basic science examination if licensee has passed another exam deemed to be comparable by the board.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Conditions under which an exemption for the basic science exam would be authorized
- Board of Naturopathic Examiners licensing process
- Qualifications for licensure by the Board of Naturopathic Examiners
- Subjects covered by the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Naturopathic medicine is defined in ORS 685.010 as “the discipline that includes physiotherapy, natural healing processes and minor surgery and has as its objective the maintaining of the body in, or of restoring it to, a state of normal health.” In order to be licensed as a naturopathic physician, a person must graduate from an approved naturopathic college offering a resident four-year course, and meet the qualifications of the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Examiners (OBNE), which include certain standards, education and conduct.

Prior to 1986, each licensing board from any state or province that regulated the practice of naturopathic medicine prepared its own board licensing examination. In 1986, the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations Board was formed and began producing national exams, but jurisdictions were still responsible for qualifying examinees and administering the exam. In 2000, the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE) was formed to determine the qualifications of applicants to sit for the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination, to administer the exam, and to report the scores to the respective regulatory authorities. The NABNE represents all constituencies having laws regulating the naturopathic profession.

As currently written, ORS 685.080 requires the OBNE to determine the qualifications of applicants for license and conduct examinations, which no longer reflects the current situation. Senate Bill 205 would modify the requirements for licensure through the OBNE requiring all applicants to successfully pass both the national basic science and core clinical science examinations administered by the NABNE along with any additional examinations required by the OBNE. It would also allow the board to waive the basic science examination requirements if the applicant passes a comparable test.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.