

**SB 856 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Malstrom

**House Committee On Health Care**

---

**Action Date:** 05/15/17

**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Hack, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Sandy Thiele-Cirka, LPRO Analyst

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows naturopathic physicians (NDs) to perform a number of activities that physicians and other licensed health care professionals are currently authorized to perform in Oregon.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Review of statutes being modified
- Concerns about expanding scope of practice
- Review of naturopathic physicians current education and training process
- Concerns about patient safety

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the United States, the scope of practice of licensed health care professions is statutorily defined in each state's laws in the form of a practice act, and are often the underlying licensing requirements. Defining scopes of practice for health care professions in statute provides the state with public policy oversight on the range of services licensed health care professions may provide. State legislatures, including Oregon's, have the authority to modify practice acts; therefore, changing a particular scope of practice of a health care profession. Such changes are often the result of advancements in the education, training or technology in health care. In Oregon, the Board of Naturopathic Medicine licenses and regulates naturopathic physicians. The Oregon Medical Board licenses medical doctors (MDs), doctors of osteopathic medicine (DO), and doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), among several other health care professions.

Senate Bill 856-A modifies the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians in Oregon.