



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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FROM: Mary-Beth Baptista, J.D., Executive Director, Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine

MEMO: Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine – 5% Reductions (2025-2027 biennium)

Mission Statement: The mission of the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board) is to regulate, through the Oregon Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules, the practices of naturopathic medicine to ensure protection of the public. The Board promotes excellence in the practice of naturopathic medicine by assuring quality education, regulating naturopathic practices, and fostering ongoing public outreach. In this manner, the Board cultivates public trust and safety by ensuring the State of Oregon is served by naturopathic professionals providing the highest standards of care.

Statutory Authority: The Board's authority and responsibility is defined in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) Chapter 685, and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 850

Funding Sources: The Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine is funded solely by Other Funds. Application, examination, and license fees make up approximately 89% of the Board's revenue, with the remainder derived from the sale of license lists and civil penalties. All agency program expenditures/regulation of naturopathic medicine are funded through Other Funds revenue.

New And Expanded Programs: The Board did not establish or expand any programs since July 1, 2021 (i.e. 2021-23 through 2025-27)

Five Percent (5%) Reduction Options: (spreadsheet attached): The Board of Naturopathic Medicine is funded solely by Other Funds. When determining which reduction options were prudent, the Board prioritized reduction options that maintained core responsibilities, programs

and services. Board then considered whether any of the reduction options would have negative impacts specifically related to:

- The protection of the public and patients, increasing the potential of patient or public harm.
- Achieving the goals set in the Board Strategic Plan, DEI and Affirmative Action plans.
- Outcomes and enforceability of Board discipline decisions.
- The excellent communication and working relationship between Board staff and Board members, Board efficiency.

Priority Reductions: 2.5% (approximately)

- Employee Training/Professional Services (eliminate)
- Out of State Travel (eliminate)
- Other Services / Supplies & Instate Travel (reduction)

The Board will eliminate all out of state travel, out of state trainings or professional conferences for both Board staff and Board members and will reduce in-state travel and other service and supply costs by not holding the Board biannual retreat in the 25-27 biennium. Although it is generally a more positive experience to learn from and interact with colleagues in an in-person environment, with the proliferation of on-line educational and networking opportunities, these reductions would have the least impact on Board function, services, or outcomes, and no impact on our mission to protect public health and safety of Oregonians. The Board held their last biannual retreat in April of 2024, where the Board developed a two-year and six-year strategic plan and engaged in discussion to advise Board Executive Director on the Board DEI plan and Affirmative Action Plan. The Board staff and Board members will be able to track the progress on all plans through their regularly scheduled meetings.

Secondary Reductions: 2.5% (approximately)

- Other Services / Supplies & Instate Travel (reduction)
- Other Services and Supplies (reduction)

The Board annually holds one-day bi-monthly Board meetings, in-person, at the Portland State Office Building. Currently, all Board members receive a one-day stipend for preparation for the meeting and another for the day spent at the meeting. Board members are compensated for their travel expenses and provided meals/meal allowance on the day of the in-person meeting. Board members review Board investigations, regularly consisting of hundreds of pages of complex medical records, involving multiple statutes and rules, to prepare for Board deliberation to determine whether a licensee committed a violation of statute or rule, and if yes, determining the appropriate discipline. There is tremendous value in having these meetings / deliberations in person, including a more robust discussion, and increased overall participation from all Board

members. Paying all the Board members a stipend compensates them for their time and concentration on the complex investigations and is an expression of gratitude for their commitment and service. This reduction proposes holding three of the six meetings virtually rather than in person, reducing in half instate travel costs and meal expenses. This reduction also eliminates the stipends for non-qualifying Board members. The proposal to eliminate stipends for Board members who do not qualify for pay / the Board is not obligated to pay per statute, is a sensible reduction with no impact on patient or public health and safety. Although the Board staff and members have a strong preference for in-person meetings, reducing the number of in-person meetings annually in half will have a minor impact on Board efficiency and function, and no impact on patient safety or the Board mission to protect public health and safety of Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any further comments or questions.

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Target (5%)	-	-	60,369	
Difference	-	-	596	