

SENATE BILL 44

Naturopaths; Licensing; Practice

WHAT IS A NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR?

- A primary care provider with a four-year post graduate medical degree who:
- practices evidence-based primary care, with a patient-centered focus,
- prioritizes disease *prevention* and discovering root cause of illness,
- whose treatments focus on lifestyle modifications, nutrition and low-risk intervention



WHAT ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION ?

Education

4-Year Medical School Program accredited by the Council of Naturopathic Medical Education with

- **2 years of medical sciences (anatomy, physiology, microbiology, immunology, etc.)**

Pre-requisites

- **4-yr undergraduate degree and additional pre-med coursework**

Residency

- **Less common because they are not trained as hospitalists**
- **1-3 yr residency options available; nationwide there's a shortage**
- **Note that residencies are not required for independent primary care providers who hold prescriptive privileges**

Licensing

Naturopaths must pass the two-part Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX) before being licensed to practice

WHO IS **NOT** A NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR?

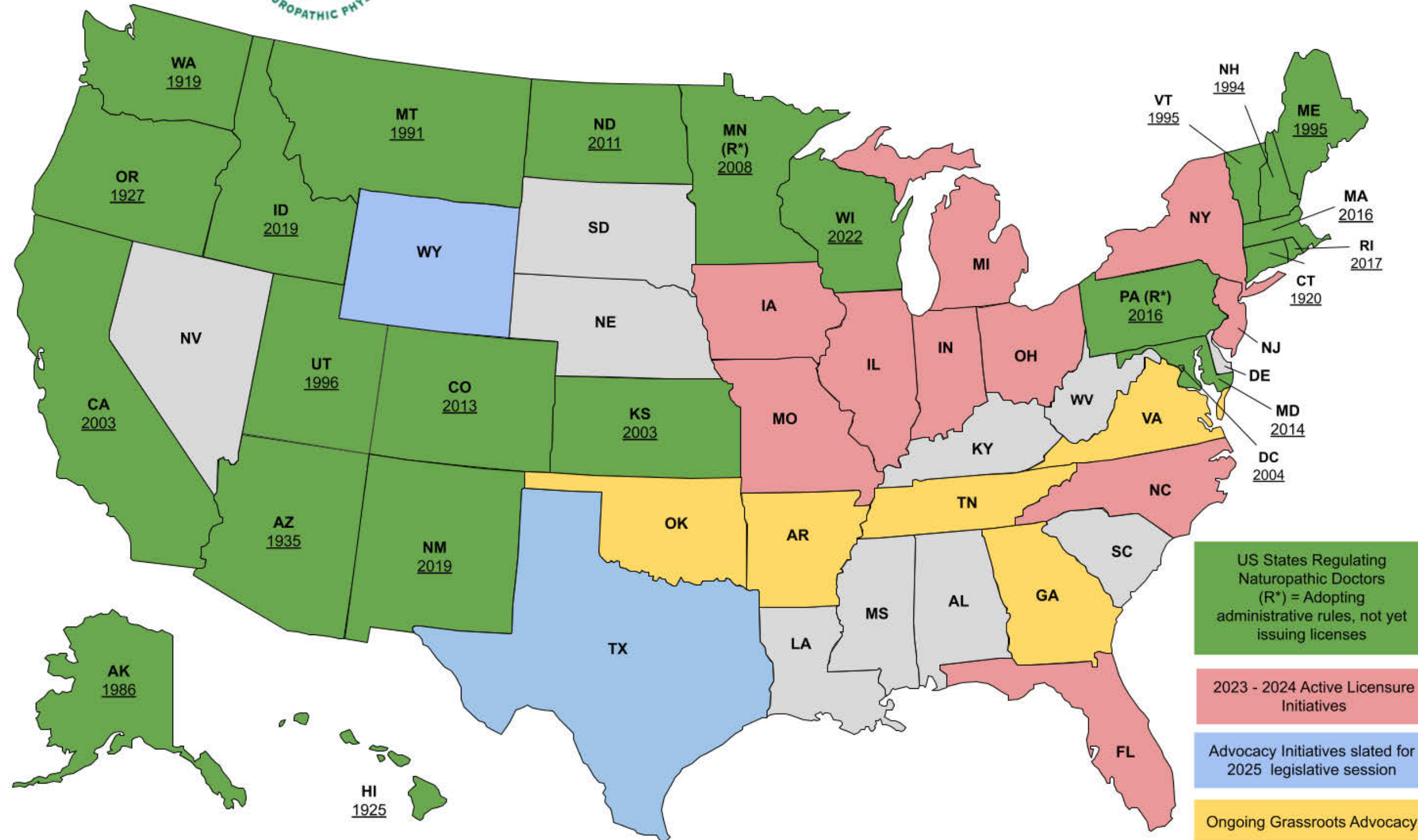
- Other conventionally-trained or allied health care providers practicing integrative, functional, or holistic healthcare such as Medical Doctors (MD), Doctors of Osteopathy (DO), Chiropractors (DC), Nurse Practitioners (NP), Physicians Assistants (PA), or Massage Therapists (LMT)
- Other licensed or unlicensed providers marketing themselves as natural care providers, holistic healthcare providers or healers
- Health food store employees
- Essential oil sales representatives
- Someone who completed an online certificate course

LICENSING NATUROPATHS



Regulation of Naturopathic Doctors in the United States

(Updated January 2024)



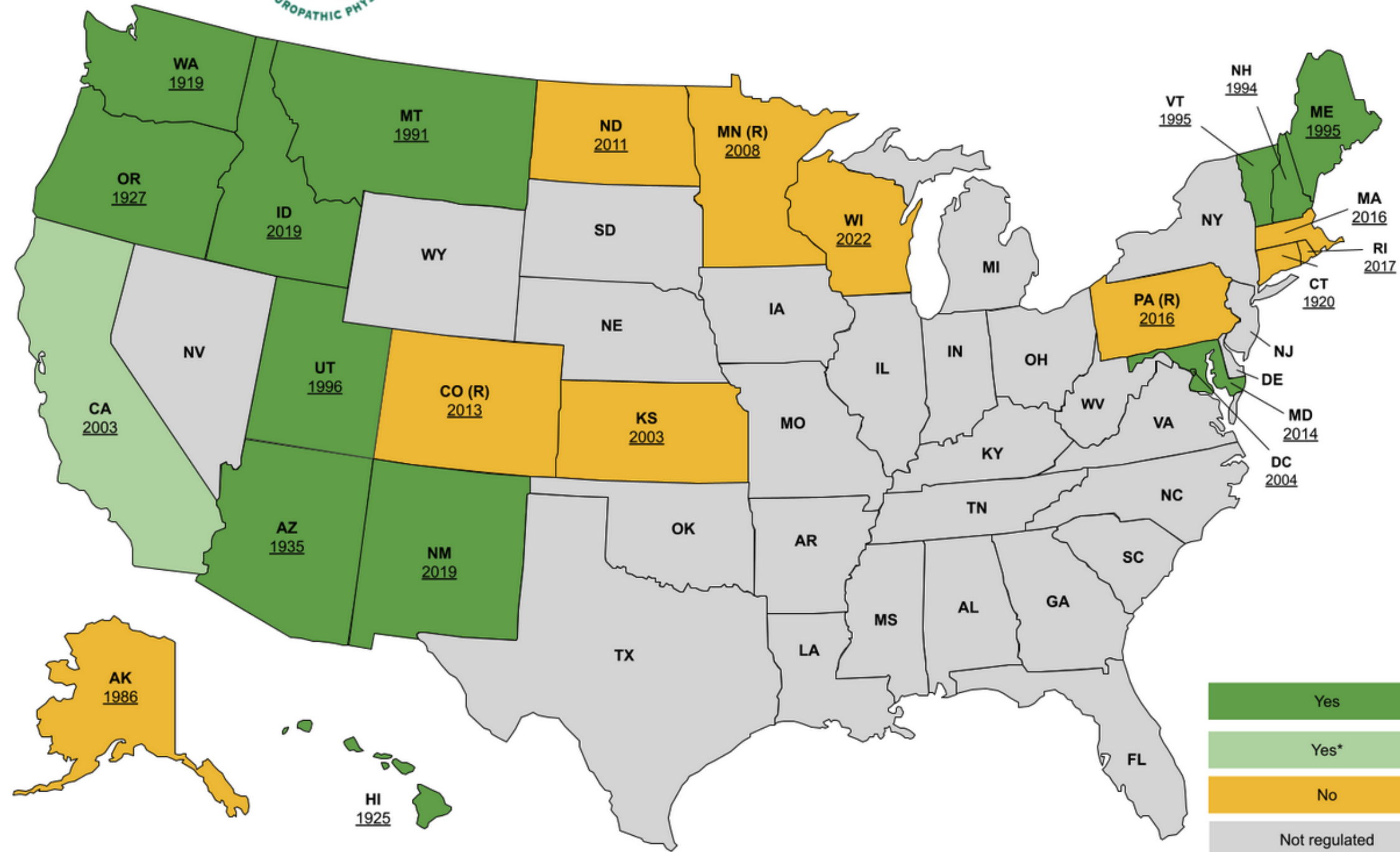
(R) = registered state.
 Year = year ND regulation passed.
 Regulated territories (not pictured): Puerto Rico (2004) and the US Virgin Islands (2001).

- US States Regulating Naturopathic Doctors (R*) = Adopting administrative rules, not yet issuing licenses
- 2023 - 2024 Active Licensure Initiatives
- Advocacy Initiatives slated for 2025 legislative session
- Ongoing Grassroots Advocacy
- State Affiliate in Development

PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR NATUROPATHS



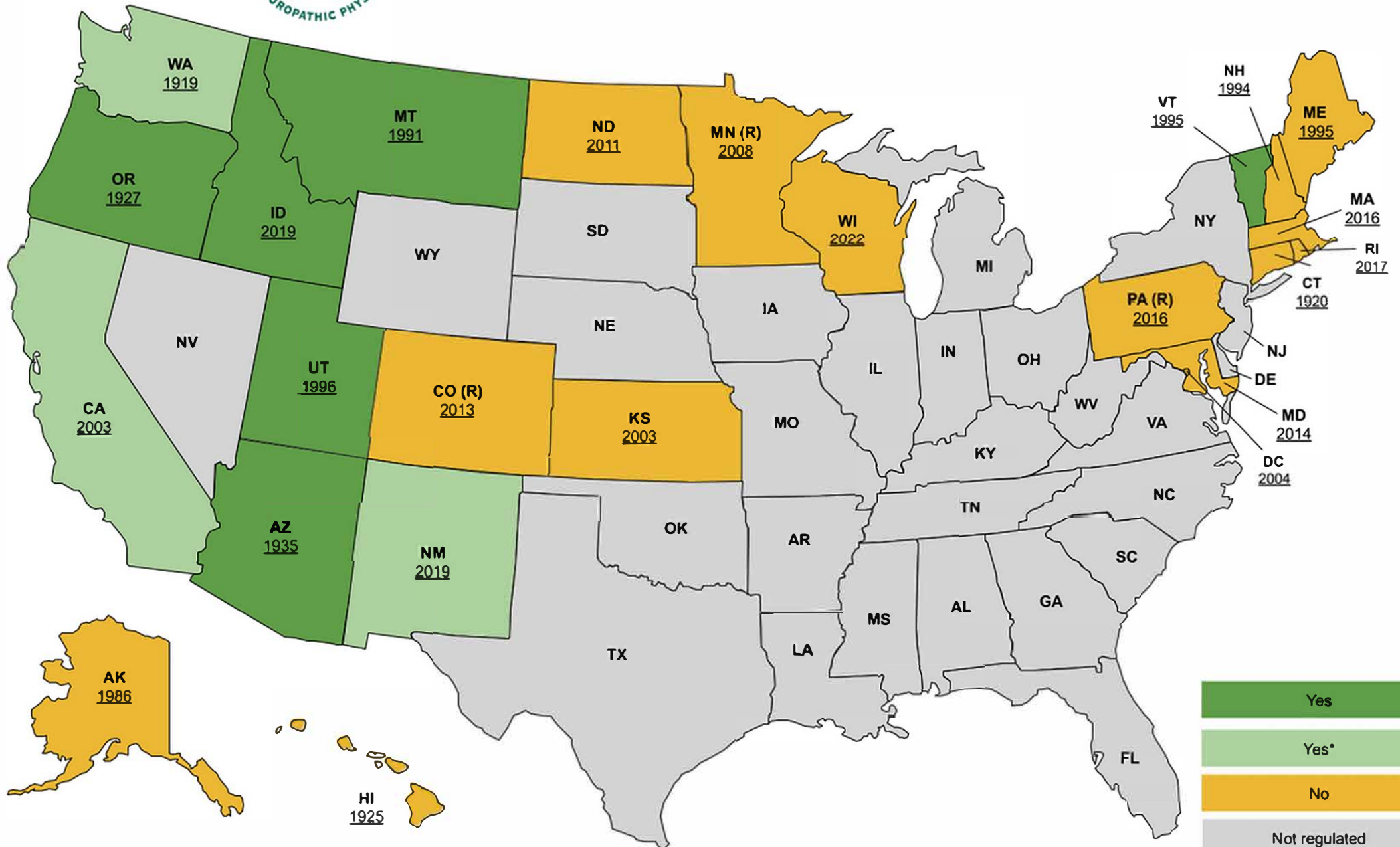
Scope of Practice by State - Prescriptive Authority



Yes* indicates limited or special conditions. Refer to individual state practice act for details.
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Scope of Practice by State - Controlled Substances



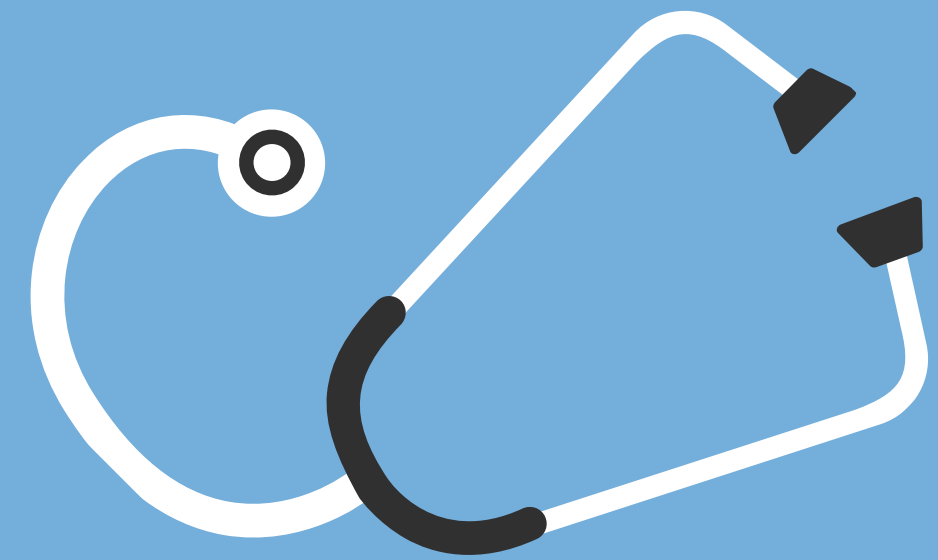
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- **Modernizes statutes for Naturopaths**
- **Cleans up outdated language**
- **Imposes the same public health duties on Naturopaths as other medical providers**



- **Updates scope of practice for Naturopaths that includes limited prescriptive authority**
- **Allows minor office procedures**



- **NO MORE duplicative office visits**
- **Improved access to care for Alaskans**
- **More choice for patients**