



House Labor and Commerce Committee

# HOUSE BILL 91

## NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE REFORM

February 12, 2020

## 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 that prioritizes disease prevention over symptom management and drug therapies



# WHAT EDUCATION DO NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS RECEIVE?

## Education

4-Year Medical School Program accredited by the Council of Naturopathic Medical Education; including:

- 2 years of medical sciences (anatomy, physiology, microbiology, immunology, etc.)
- 2 years of clinical sciences and treatment methods

## Prerequisites

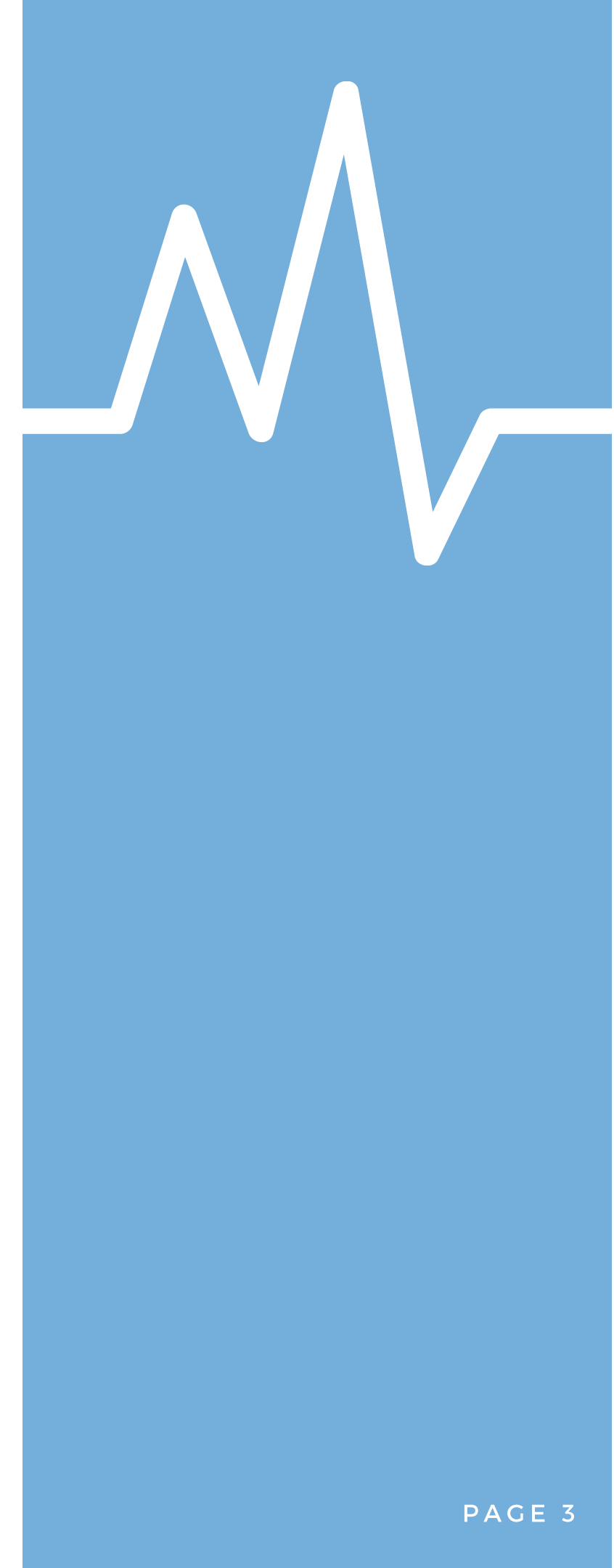
- 4 year undergraduate degree and additional pre-medical coursework

## Residencies

- 1-3 year residency options throughout the country; however, there are not enough residency opportunities for every graduate

## 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

# LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF NATUROPATH STATUTES IN ALASKA

## ESTABLISHING STATUTES

1986: AS 08.45 (Naturopaths) established

## LEGISLATION PASSED

2004: SB 306 - Established a Naturopathic Medicine Task Force

2005: SB 42 - Extended Task Force one year and updated membership

2005: SB 52 - Updated statutes to correct "division" to "department"

## LEGISLATION ATTEMPTS

2007: SB 107

2008: HB 363

2010: HB 282 & SB 70

2011: HB 122

2012: HB 266 & SB 175

2013: HB 7

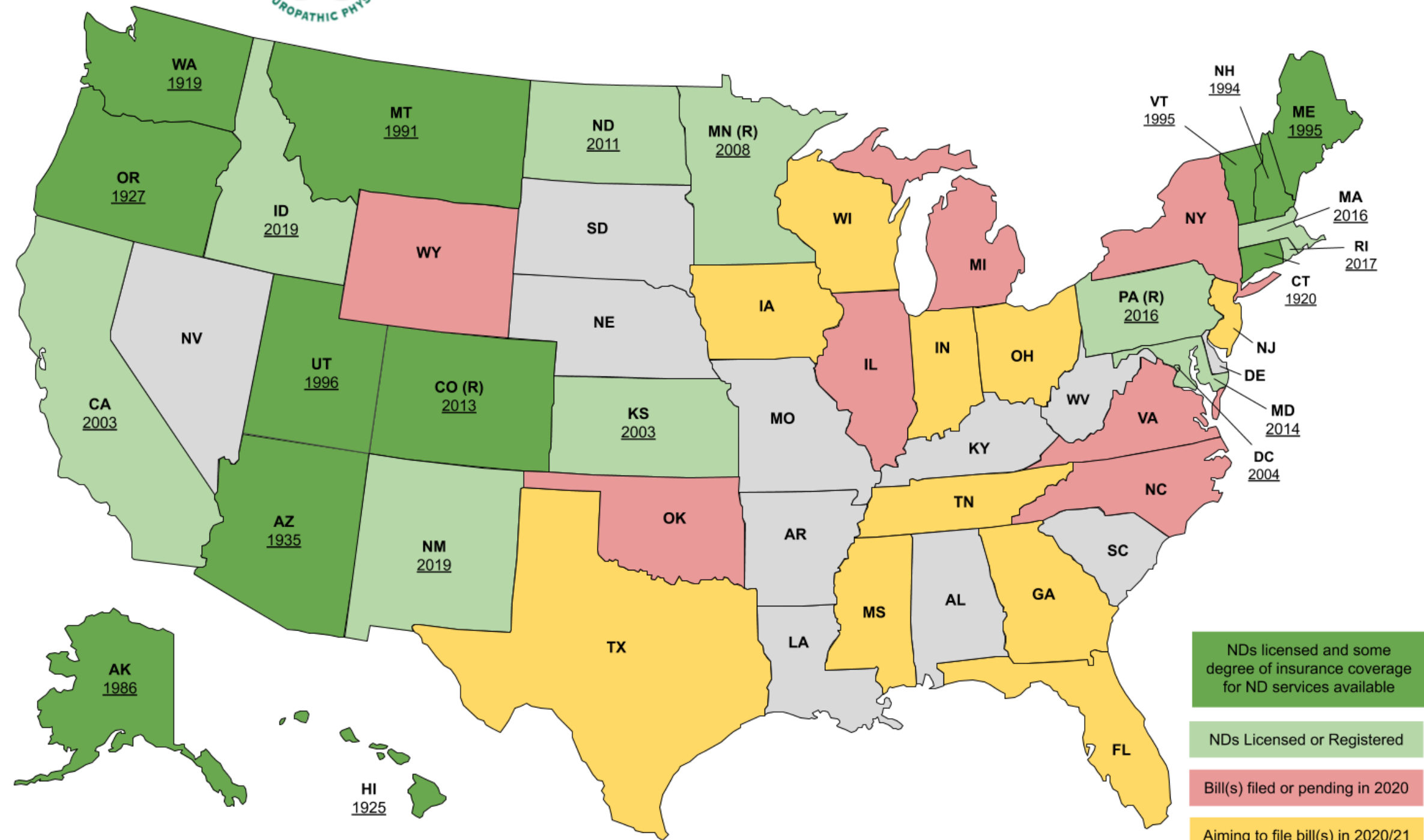
2017: HB 326 & SB 120

2019: [HB 91](#)

# LICENSING NATUROPATHS IN AMERICA



## Regulation of Naturopathic Doctors in the United States (Updated: 2.5.2020)



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

Source: <https://naturopathic.org/page/RegulatedStates>



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**Modernizes statutes for Naturopaths by cleaning up outdated language, requiring continuing education every 2 years, and imposing the same public health duties on Naturopaths as other medical providers**



**Updates scope of practice for Naturopaths to include limited prescriptive authority and allowing minor office procedures**



**Removes the need for duplicative office visits and improves access to care for patients in Alaska**