



SENATE BILL 38
NATUROPATHIC
MEDICINE REFORM

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

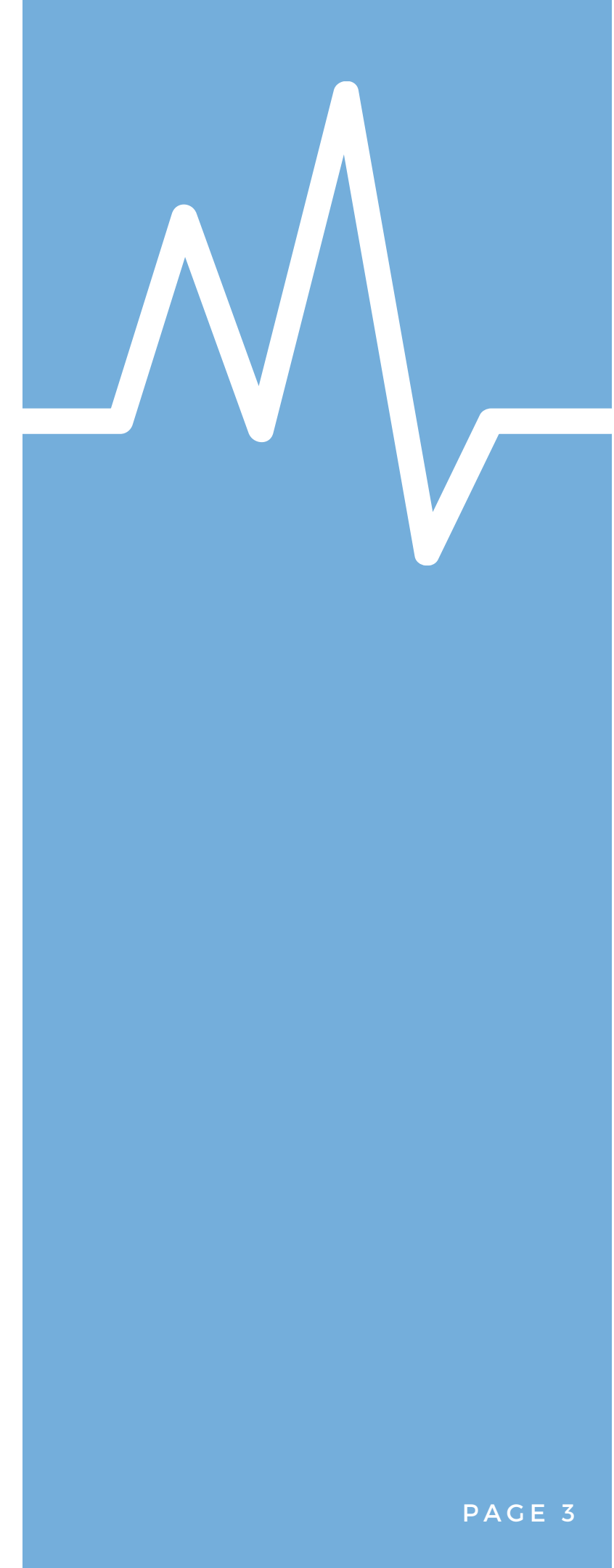
- 4 year undergraduate degree and additional pre-medical coursework

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

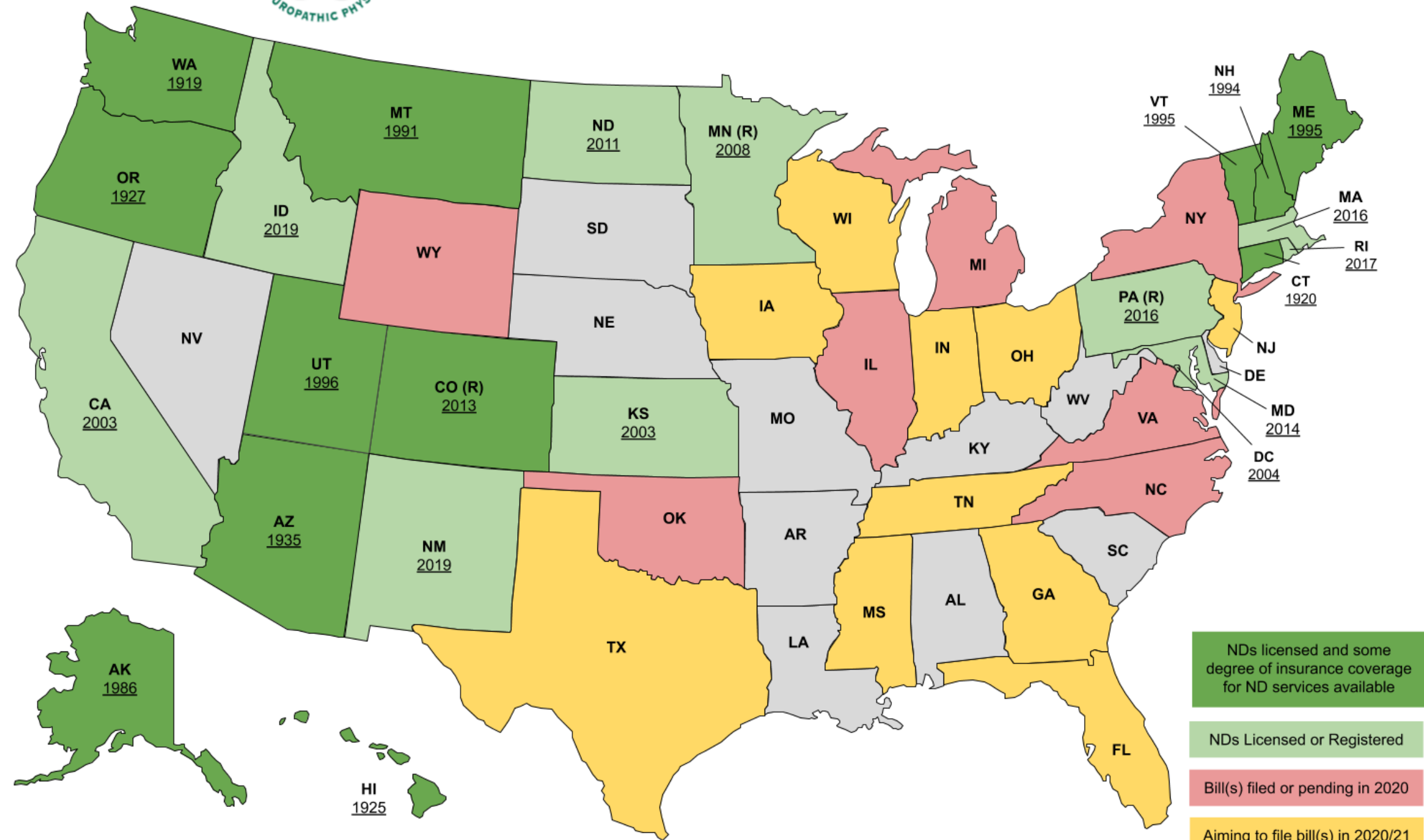
2019: HB 91

2021: **SB 38**

LICENSING NATUROPATHS IN AMERICA



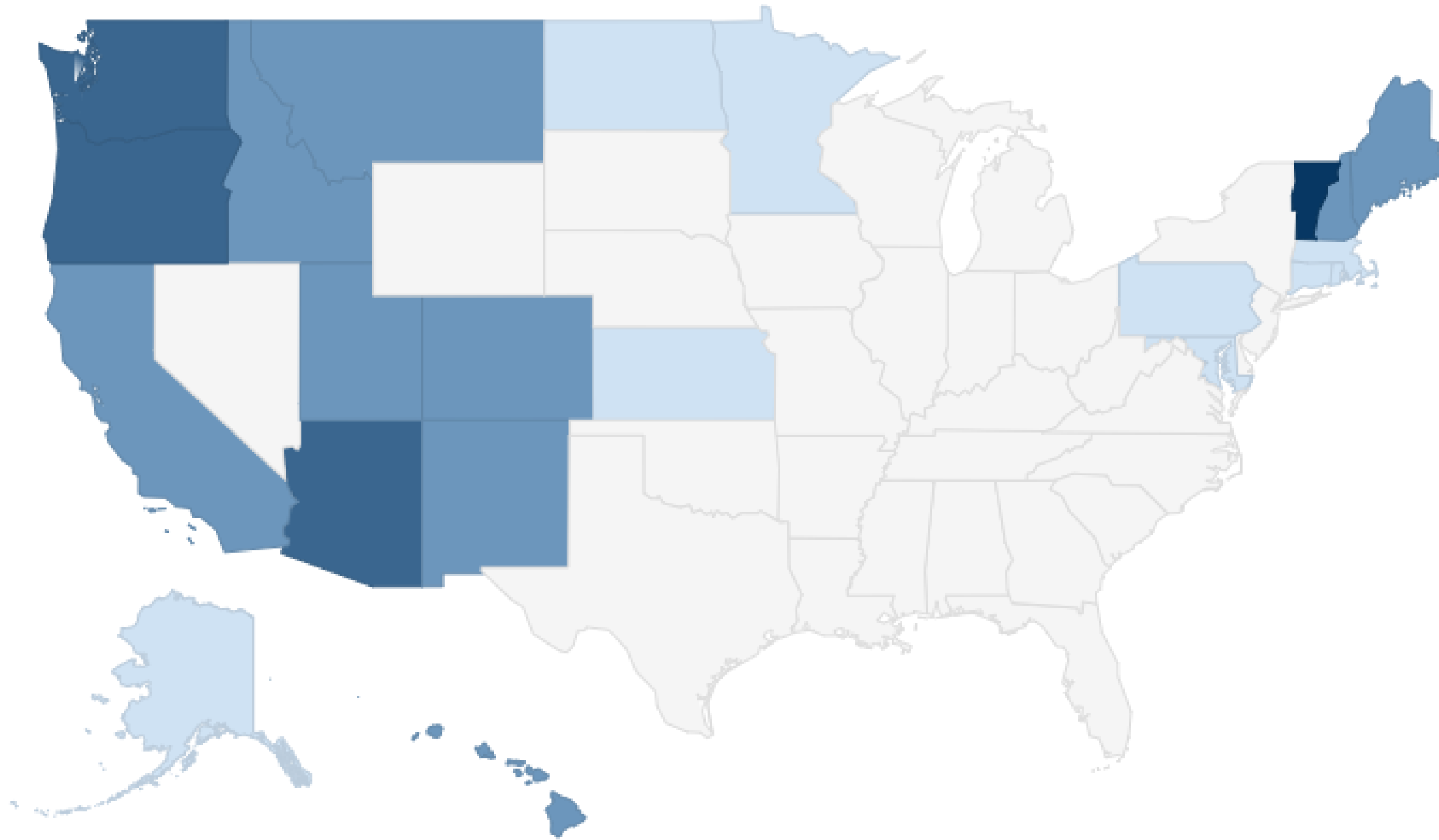
Regulation of Naturopathic Doctors in the United States (Updated: 2.5.2020)



(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>

PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR NATUROPATHS IN AMERICA



Prescriptive Authority By State	
	Full Prescriptive Authority
	Almost Full Prescriptive Authority, with Provisions
	Prescriptive Authority with Provisions
	Regulated, No Prescriptive Authority

State	Prescriptive Authority	Controlled Substances
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	No
Connecticut	No	No
District of Columbia	Yes	Yes
Hawaii	Yes	No
Idaho	Yes	No
Kansas	No	No
Maine	Yes	No
Maryland	No	No
Massachusetts	No	No
Minnesota	No	No
Montana	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	No
North Dakota	No	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No
Utah	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes

Data from: Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians and the DEA Mid-Level Practitioners Authorization by State for Controlled Substances (2019)

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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