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BY THE LABOR AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

1 IN THE HOUSE

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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 347 (L&C)

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the licensing of naturopaths; and
7 providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

10 (24) regulation of naturopaths under AS 08.45.

11 * Sec. 2. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

12 CHAPTER 45. NATUROPATHS.

13 ARTICLE 1. BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC EXAMINERS.

14 Sec. 08.45.010. CREATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD. There is
15 established the Board of Naturopathic Examiners consisting of

16 (1) three naturopaths licensed under this chapter;

17 (2) one doctor licensed under AS 08.64; and

18 (3) one public member.

19 Sec. 08.45.030. TERM OF OFFICE. Members of the board serve
20 staggered terms of three years. A member may be appointed to serve no
21 more than two consecutive full terms.

22 Sec. 08.45.040. APPLICABILITY. AS 08.45.010 - 08.45.040 apply
23 one year after the first eight licenses are issued under this chapter.
24 After AS 08.45.010 - 08.45.040 become applicable, the board shall
25 exercise the powers and duties of the department under this chapter.

26 ARTICLE 2. REGULATION OF NATUROPATHY.

27 Sec. 08.45.090. DUTIES AND POWERS. (a) The department shall

28 (1) evaluate the qualifications of applicants for licenses
29 under this chapter;

1 (2) conduct hearings and keep records necessary to carry
2 out the purposes of this chapter; and

3 (3) license naturopaths and renew licenses in accordance
4 with AS 08.45.100 - 08.45.170.

5 (b) The department may establish by regulation educational
6 requirements for licensure under this chapter in addition to require-
7 ments under AS 08.45.110(2) that are equivalent to or higher than
8 requirements in other states that license naturopaths, and identify
9 schools that provide courses of study that satisfy the requirements.

10 Sec. 08.45.100. LICENSING REQUIREMENT. A person may not engage
11 in the practice of naturopathy unless that person has a valid license
12 or temporary permit issued under this chapter.

13 Sec. 08.45.110. LICENSURE AS A NATUROPATH. To be eligible for a
14 license as a naturopath, an applicant shall

15 (1) hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college of
16 liberal arts or sciences;

17 (2) have graduated from a school of naturopathy approved by
18 the department that has as a requirement for graduation successful
19 completion of a course of resident instruction of at least nine months
20 actual attendance in each of four years and successful completion of a
21 course of study totaling at least 4,000 hours of instruction of which
22 at least 1,500 hours is clinical experience;

23 (3) successfully complete an examination given by the
24 department;

25 (4) not have a license to practice naturopathy in another
26 state, province, or territory, that is suspended or revoked for disci-
27 plinary reasons;

28 (5) be a United States citizen or lawfully admitted to
29 permanent residence in this country; and

1 (6) after graduating from a school of naturopathy, complete
2 a one-year internship supervised by a naturopath licensed in this or
3 another state.

4 Sec. 08.45.120. EXAMINATION. (a) An examination for licensing
5 as a naturopath shall be held at least twice each year at a time and
6 place and shall be conducted as determined by the department. The
7 examination shall be objective and in writing, but may be supplemented
8 by oral examinations, and by demonstrations or other practical tests
9 as the department may require.

10 (b) To pass the examination an applicant shall receive an over-
11 all average of 75 percent and may not receive less than 70 percent in
12 more than two sections. If an applicant fails the examination, the
13 applicant may apply to be reexamined.

14 Sec. 08.45.130. TEMPORARY PERMIT. (a) The department may issue
15 a temporary permit to practice naturopathy to a person if the person

16 (1) is currently licensed as a naturopath in another state
17 or territory or in a province of Canada; and

18 (A) that state, territory, or province maintains
19 professional licensing standards equivalent or higher than those
20 in this chapter;

21 (B) that state, territory, or province extends the
22 same licensing privilege to those holding a license in this
23 state; and

24 (C) the person demonstrates to the satisfaction of the
25 department qualifications at least equal to those required of
26 persons licensed under this chapter; or

27 (2) qualifies for a license under AS 08.45.110(1) - (5) and
28 is working as an intern supervised by a naturopath with a license or
29 temporary permit issued under this chapter.

1 (b) A temporary permit issued under (a)(1) of this section is
2 valid until the date on which the results of the next examination that
3 is offered under AS 08.45.120 are released. A temporary permit issued
4 under (a)(2) of this section is valid for one year.

5 Sec. 08.45.140. LICENSE RENEWAL. A license issued under this
6 chapter expires unless it is renewed every four years.

7 Sec. 08.45.150. FEES. The following fees are imposed under this
8 chapter:

- 9 (1) application for examination \$ 50
10 (2) application for re-examination..... 10
11 (3) license issuance or renewal 200
12 (4) temporary permit issuance..... 50

13 Sec. 08.45.160. SCOPE OF NATUROPATHIC PRACTICE. (a) A naturo-
14 path in the course of the practice of naturopathy may

15 (1) use systems of diagnosis for which the naturopath has
16 been trained;

17 (2) treat patients by physiological, nutritional, mechan-
18 ical, manual, hydrotherapeutic and phytotherapeutic means, with accu-
19 pressure, and with minerals, and with extracts, compounds and concen-
20 trates obtained from plants or animals.

21 (b) A naturopath may not

22 (1) perform surgery;

23 (2) use or prescribe controlled substances as defined in
24 AS 11.81.900(b)(6); or

25 (3) use x-ray equipment, radium, or irradiation for diagno-
26 sis or therapy.

27 Sec. 08.45.170. CONTINUING EDUCATION. (a) The department shall
28 prescribe by regulation continuing education requirements for persons
29 licensed under this chapter.

1 (b) Before a license issued under this chapter may be renewed,
2 the licensee shall submit to the department evidence of completion of
3 continuing education requirements.

4 (c) The department may exempt a licensee from the continuing
5 education requirement upon an application of the licensee setting out
6 extenuating circumstances. A licensee may not receive more than one
7 exemption under this subsection in a five-year period.

8 ARTICLE 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

9 Sec. 08.45.200. TITLES AND ABBREVIATIONS. (a) A person with a
10 license or permit under this chapter may use the following titles:
11 "Naturopath", "Doctor of Naturopathy" or its abbreviation, "N.D.". A
12 person with a license or permit under this chapter may not use a title
13 in a manner that suggests that the person practices a form of medicine
14 or a healing art other than naturopathy.

15 (b) A person may not use a title or abbreviation listed in (a)
16 of this section unless the person is licensed under this chapter.

17 Sec. 08.45.210. IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS. After a
18 hearing, the department may limit, deny, suspend, or revoke a license
19 or temporary permit, or censure a licensee or permittee if the person

20 (1) secured a license or permit under this chapter through
21 deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation;

22 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresenta-
23 tion in the course of providing professional services or engaging in
24 professional activities;

25 (3) advertised professional services in a false or mislead-
26 ing manner;

27 (4) has been convicted of a felony or other crime that
28 affects the person's ability to continue to practice competently and
29 safely;

1 (5) fails to comply with this chapter or a regulation
2 adopted under this chapter;

3 (6) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to
4 (A) professional incompetence;
5 (B) addiction or severe dependency on alcohol or other
6 drugs that impairs the person's ability to practice safely;

7 (C) physical or mental disability;

8 (7) engaged in lewd or immoral conduct in connection with
9 the delivery of professional service to a patient.

10 Sec. 08.45.220. VIOLATIONS. (a) Except as provided in (b) of
11 this section, a person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if the
12 person intentionally violates a provision of this chapter or a regula-
13 tion adopted under this chapter.

14 (b) A person who practices naturopathy without a valid temporary
15 permit or license issued under this chapter is guilty of a class A
16 misdemeanor.

17 Sec. 08.45.900. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

18 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce and
19 Economic Development;

20 (2) "naturopathy" and "naturopathic" means a system of
21 human health care that promotes good health through the prevention and
22 treatment of illness by the use of educational, physical, nutritional,
23 botanical, hygienic and other methods, and without the use of pre-
24 scription drugs, surgery, x-ray equipment or radium therapy.

25 * Sec. 3. TEMPORARY PERMITS FOR PRACTITIONERS OF NATUROPATHY. (a) The
26 Department of Commerce and Economic Development shall issue a temporary
27 permit to practice naturopathy to a person who, on the effective date of
28 this Act,

29 (1) is practicing naturopathy in the state;

1 (2) meets all the qualifications of AS 08.45.110 or 08.45.130-
2 (a)(2), except for AS 08.45.110(3); and

3 (3) applies for the permit.

4 (b) A temporary permit issued under this section is valid until the
5 date on which the results of the first examination that is offered under
6 AS 08.45.120, as enacted in sec. 2 of this Act, are released.

7 * Sec. 4. Notwithstanding AS 08.45.010 as enacted in sec. 2 of this
8 Act, the first members of the Board of Naturopathic Examiners shall be
9 appointed for the following terms; one member shall serve a one-year term,
10 two members shall serve two-year terms, and two members shall serve three-
11 year terms.

12 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect January 1, 1985.

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