

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Natwar M. Gandhi**  
Chief Financial Officer



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp**  
**Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia**

**FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

**DATE: June 14, 2002**

**SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Practice of Naturopathic Medicine**  
**Licensing Amendment Act of 2002"**

**REFERENCE: Bill Number 14-0457**

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2002 through FY 2005 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation because no additional staff or resources will be required. The proposed legislation will have no affect on General Fund revenue.

**Background**

The proposed legislation would establish a Board of Naturopathic Medicine and require that the practice of naturopathic medicine be limited to those activities defined as naturopathic medicine in the bill. The proposed legislation also establishes the requirements for licensure and acts prohibited.

Eleven states and four provinces currently allow the practice of naturopathic medicine (Alaska, Arizona, British Columbia, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Manitoba, Montana, New Hampshire, Ontario, Oregon, Saskatchewan, Utah, Vermont, and Washington). There are approximately 1,500 naturopathic physicians practicing nationwide and 631 naturopaths registered in the District of Columbia, many of which do not reside in the District.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

According to the Department of Health (DOH), the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact on the department because the staff currently administering the Naturopathic Registration Program could implement the new requirements with existing resources. The increase in workload for the existing staff is expected to be minimal.