

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 [signature]
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: February 10, 2004

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Practice of Naturopathic Medicine
Licensing Amendment Act of 2004"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 15-057

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2004 through FY 2007 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation, if program implementation begins in FY 2005.

Background

The proposed legislation would establish an Advisory Committee on Naturopathic Medicine to advise the Board of Medicine on the licensure and regulation of naturopathic physicians. The bill also would 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 (including residency), delineates prohibited acts and redefines the practice of naturopathy.

Eleven states and four provinces currently allow the practice of naturopathic medicine (Alaska, Arizona, British Columbia, Connecticut, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Manitoba, Montana, New Hampshire, Ontario, Oregon, Saskatchewan, Utah, Vermont, and Washington). Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands also have licensing laws for naturopathic doctors. In California, a new naturopathic licensing law took effect on January 1, 2004. There are approximately 1,500 naturopathic physicians practicing nationwide and over 630 naturopaths registered in the District of Columbia, many of which do not reside in the District.

Financial Plan Impact

If program implementation begins in FY 2005, funds are sufficient in the FY 2004 through FY 2007 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

According to the Department of Health, sufficient licensing fees would be collected from those licensed to practice naturopathic medicine to regulate the profession as specified in the bill. Current staff in the Health Professional Licensing Administration would administer this legislation. This administration is funded by licensing fees, civil fines and interest related to the health occupations in the District, and are deposited into a dedicated non-tax revenue fund.