



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 937 - Naturopathic Doctors - Formulary Council Membership, Formulary Content, and Scope of Practice

SPONSOR: Delegates Krebs, Kelly, and Pena-Melnyk

HEARING DATE: March 3, 2020

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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| POSITION: | SUPPORT |
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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 937 - Naturopathic Doctors - Formulary Council Membership, Formulary Content, and Scope of Practice**, which expands the types of prescription drugs and devices that must be included on the formulary for naturopathic doctors to include any other prescription drugs and devices recommended by the Naturopathic Doctors Formulary Council and approved by the State Board of Physicians (MBP). The bill allows a licensed naturopathic doctor to dispense, order, or administer natural medicines, dietary supplements, and nonprescription drugs that use any route of administration as recommended by the county and approved by MBP. It also authorizes a licensed naturopathic doctor to prescribe, dispense, and administer prescription drugs listed in the formulary and specified medical foods.

Patients seek out naturopathic medicine for various reasons, including wanting more time with a practitioner, previous frustration or problems with the traditional medical system, and/or a desire for a holistic approach to healthcare.¹ Naturopathic doctors can provide primary care for residents wanting alternatives to traditional medicine.² As primary care providers, naturopathic doctors should have the ability, under the scrutiny of the Board of Physicians, to prescribe certain medications that can advance public health. This legislation will help increase access to care for residents of Prince George's County.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 937** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

¹ Fleming, Sara and Gutknecht, Nancy. "Naturopathy and the Primary Care Practice," *Primary Care: Clinics in Office Practice*, 37(1), March 2010, Accessed on March 3, 2020 at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2883816/>

² Id.