



## Maryland Naturopathic Doctors Association

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Annapolis, MD

**To:** House Health Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 1527 - Complementary and Alternative Health Care - Practice Authorized (Complementary and Alternative Health Care Practice Act)

**Date:** March 18, 2026

**Position:** Unfavorable

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The Maryland Naturopathic Doctors Association opposes *House Bill 1527 – Complementary and Alternative Health Care – Practice Authorized*. The bill creates an exemption for complementary and alternative healthcare practitioners from being licensed by a Maryland health occupations board. The definition of complementary and alternative health care includes “naturopathy.”

Under current law, individuals who practice naturopathic medicine must be licensed by the Board of Physicians. This statutory safeguard protects consumers, as they can be assured that practitioners meet standards set in Maryland law and through regulation by the Maryland Board of Physicians. The bill would severely limit, if not eliminate, the Board of Physician’s ability to take action against unlicensed practitioners who harm consumers, as under the bill’s proposed provisions:

Health Occupations 22–201.16

“SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS TITLE, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY PRACTICE COMPLEMENTARY OR ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE WITHOUT OBTAINING A LICENSE, CERTIFICATION, OR OTHER AUTHORIZATION ISSUED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.”

As long as a complementary and alternative practitioner met proposed requirements for disclosure of certain information to consumers, a board could not take action against the practitioner regardless of the severity of harm caused by the practitioner.

The Maryland Naturopathic Doctors Association asks for an unfavorable report in order to keep current consumer safeguards intact. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.