

## Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1218

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:**    Petersen

**3. Committee:** Education and Health

**4. Title:**    Naturopathic doctors; license required.

**5. Summary:** Requires the Board of Medicine to license and regulate naturopathic doctors. The practice of naturopathic medicine is defined in the bill as (i) a system of primary health care for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human health conditions, injury, and disease and (ii) the use of both naturopathic and traditional medical therapies to promote or restore whole patient health. The bill also establishes the Advisory Board on Naturopathic Medicine to assist the Board of Medicine in formulating regulations related to the practice of naturopathic medicine.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill would have a nongeneral fund impact on the Commonwealth. The Department of Health Professions would require one position to process new registrants and meet the provisions of the bill. The cost of this position is estimated at \$66,000 including fringe benefits. Fees for registration of a naturopathic doctor would be set at a level comparable to fees for professions licensed by the Board of Medicine and would cover the costs of the position. The Boards are at capacity reviewing applications for the certified and licensed professions they presently regulate, and therefore do not have sufficient staff to register this additional population. Staffing of the Advisory Board would be added to the duties of this position.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Health Professions.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** HB2044, as introduced by Delegate Rasoul, is a companion bill.