

Senate Engrossed

naturopathic physicians; drug administration

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SENATE BILL 1178

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 32-1501, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE
NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS MEDICAL BOARD.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 32-1501, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 32-1501. Definitions

5 In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 1. "Accepted therapeutic purpose" means treatment of a disease,
7 injury, ailment or infirmity that is competent and generally recognized as
8 safe and effective.

9 2. "Active license" means a current valid license to practice
10 naturopathic medicine.

11 3. "Adequate medical records" means legible medical records
12 containing, at a minimum, sufficient information to identify the patient,
13 support the diagnosis, describe the treatment, accurately document the
14 results, indicate advice and cautionary warning provided to the patient
15 and provide sufficient information for a similarly qualified practitioner
16 to assume continuity of the patient's care at any point in the course of
17 treatment.

18 4. "Approved clinical training program" or "clinical training
19 program" means a program for naturopathic medical students in which the
20 training occurred or is being conducted by or in conjunction with an
21 approved school of naturopathic medicine.

22 5. "Approved internship program" or "internship" means that the
23 program in which the training occurred or is being conducted has been
24 approved for internship training for physicians or for graduates of a
25 school of naturopathic medicine by the board or was approved or accredited
26 by an educational or professional association recognized by the board or
27 by another state's or country's licensing agency recognized by the board.

28 6. "Approved postdoctoral training" or "postdoctoral training"
29 means that the program in which the training occurred or is being
30 conducted has been approved for specialty training or for graduate medical
31 education in naturopathic medicine by the board or approved or accredited
32 by an educational or professional association recognized by the board or
33 by another state's or country's licensing agency recognized by the board.

34 7. "Approved preceptorship program" or "preceptorship" means that
35 the program in which the training occurred or is being conducted has been
36 approved for preceptorship training for physicians or for graduates of a
37 school of naturopathic medicine by the board or was approved or accredited
38 by an educational or professional association recognized by the board or
39 by another state's or country's licensing agency recognized by the board.

40 8. "Approved school of naturopathic medicine" or "school of
41 naturopathic medicine" means a school, college or university determined by
42 the board to have an educational program that meets standards prescribed
43 by the council on naturopathic medical education, or its successor agency,
44 and that offers a course of study that, on successful completion, results

1 in the awarding of the degree of doctor of naturopathic medicine and whose
2 course of study is either of the following:

3 (a) Accredited or a candidate for accreditation by an accrediting
4 agency recognized by the United States secretary of education as a
5 specialized accrediting agency for schools of naturopathic medicine or its
6 successor.

7 (b) Accredited or a candidate for accreditation by an accrediting
8 agency recognized by the council for higher education accreditation or its
9 successor.

10 9. "Board" means the naturopathic physicians medical board.

11 10. "Chelation therapy" means an experimental medical therapy to
12 restore cellular homeostasis through the use of intravenous, metal-binding
13 and bioinorganic agents such as ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid.
14 Chelation therapy does not include experimental therapy used to treat
15 heavy metal poisoning.

16 11. "Completed application" means that the applicant paid the
17 required fees and supplied all documents and information as requested by
18 the board and in a manner acceptable to the board.

19 12. "Controlled substance" means a drug, substance or immediate
20 precursor in schedules I through V of title 36, chapter 27, article 2 or
21 the rules adopted pursuant to title 36, chapter 27, article 2.

22 13. "Direct supervision" means that a physician who is licensed
23 pursuant to this chapter or chapter 13, 17 or 29 of this title:

24 (a) Is physically present and within sight or sound of the person
25 supervised and is available for consultation regarding procedures that the
26 physician has authorized and for which the physician remains responsible.

27 (b) Has designated a person licensed pursuant to this chapter or
28 chapter 13, 17 or 29 of this title to provide direct supervision in the
29 physician's absence.

30 14. "Doctor of naturopathic medicine" or "doctor" means a natural
31 person who is licensed to practice naturopathic medicine under this
32 chapter.

33 15. "Drug" has the same meaning prescribed in section 32-1901 but
34 does not include:

35 (a) Intravenous administration of legend drugs, except for:

36 (i) Vitamins, chelation therapy, ANTIBIOTICS, ANTIVIRALS,
37 ANTIFUNGALS and drugs used in emergency resuscitation and stabilization.

38 (ii) Minerals.

39 (iii) Nutrients. For the purposes of this item, "nutrient" means a
40 substance that provides nourishment for growth or metabolism and that is
41 manufactured and supplied for intravenous use by a manufacturer registered
42 with the United States food and drug administration or compounded by a
43 pharmacy licensed by the Arizona state board of pharmacy.

44 (b) Controlled substances listed as schedule I or II controlled
45 substances as defined in the federal controlled substances act of 1970

1 (21 United States Code section 802), except morphine, any drug that is
2 reclassified from schedule III to schedule II after January 1, 2014 and
3 any homeopathic preparations that are also controlled substances.

4 (c) Cancer chemotherapeutics classified as legend drugs.

5 (d) Antipsychotics.

6 16. "General supervision" means that the physician is available for
7 consultation regarding procedures that the physician has authorized and
8 for which the physician remains responsible.

9 17. "Legend drug" means any drug that is defined by section 503(b)
10 of the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act and under which definition its
11 label is required to bear the statement "Rx only".

12 18. "Letter of concern" means a nondisciplinary advisory letter
13 that is issued by the board to a person who is regulated under this
14 chapter and that states that while there is insufficient evidence to
15 support disciplinary action the board believes that the person should
16 modify or eliminate certain practices and that continuation of the
17 activities that led to the information being submitted to the board may
18 result in action against the person's license, certificate or
19 registration.

20 19. "Letter of reprimand" means a disciplinary letter that is
21 issued by the board and that informs a person who is regulated under this
22 chapter that the person's conduct violates state or federal law but does
23 not require the board to restrict the person's license, certificate or
24 registration because the person's conduct did not result in harm to a
25 patient or to the public.

26 20. "Limit" means taking a nondisciplinary action that alters the
27 physician's practice or professional activities if the board determines
28 that there is evidence that the physician is or may be mentally or
29 physically unable to safely engage in the practice of medicine.

30 21. "Medical assistant" or "naturopathic medical assistant" means a
31 person who is certified by the board as a medical assistant, who assists a
32 doctor of naturopathic medicine and who may perform delegated procedures
33 that are commensurate with the assistant's education and training under
34 the direct supervision of a doctor of naturopathic medicine and that do
35 not include diagnosing, designing or modifying established treatment
36 programs or those procedures prohibited by the board or by this chapter.

37 22. "Medically incompetent" means a person who is licensed,
38 certified or registered pursuant to this chapter and who lacks sufficient
39 naturopathic medical knowledge or skills, or both, to a degree that is
40 likely to endanger the health of patients.

41 23. "Natural substance" means a homeopathic, botanical, nutritional
42 or other supplement that does not require a prescription pursuant to
43 federal law before it is prescribed, dispensed or otherwise furnished to a
44 patient and that is prescribed by a physician who is licensed pursuant to

1 this chapter to enhance health, prevent disease or treat a medical
2 condition diagnosed by the physician.

3 24. "Naturopathic medical student" means a person who is enrolled
4 in a course of study at an approved school of naturopathic medicine.

5 25. "Naturopathic medicine" means medicine as taught in approved
6 schools of naturopathic medicine and in clinical, internship,
7 preceptorship and postdoctoral training programs approved by the board and
8 practiced by a recipient of a degree of doctor of naturopathic medicine
9 WHO IS licensed pursuant to this chapter.

10 26. "Nurse" means a person who is licensed pursuant to chapter 15
11 of this title.

12 27. "Physician" means a doctor of naturopathic medicine who is
13 licensed pursuant to this chapter.

14 28. "Practice of naturopathic medicine" means a medical system of
15 diagnosing and treating diseases, injuries, ailments, infirmities and
16 other conditions of the human mind and body, including by natural means,
17 drugless methods, drugs, nonsurgical methods, devices, physical,
18 electrical, hygienic and sanitary measures and all forms of physical
19 agents and modalities.

20 29. "Restrict" means taking a disciplinary action that alters the
21 physician's practice or professional activities if the board determines
22 that there is evidence that the physician is or may be medically
23 incompetent or guilty of unprofessional conduct.

24 30. "Specialist" means a physician who has successfully completed
25 approved postdoctoral training, who is certified by a specialty board of
26 examiners recognized by the board and who is certified by the board to
27 practice the specialty pursuant to this chapter.

28 31. "Unprofessional conduct" includes the following, whether
29 occurring in this state or elsewhere:

30 (a) Intentionally disclosing a professional secret or intentionally
31 disclosing a privileged communication except as either of these may
32 otherwise be required by law.

33 (b) Engaging in any dishonorable conduct reflecting unfavorably on
34 the profession.

35 (c) Committing a felony, whether or not involving moral turpitude,
36 or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. In either case conviction by
37 any court of competent jurisdiction or a plea of no contest is conclusive
38 evidence of the commission of the felony or misdemeanor.

39 (d) Habitual intemperance in the use of alcohol or any substance
40 abuse.

41 (e) Engaging in the illegal use of any narcotic or hypnotic drugs,
42 or illegal substances.

43 (f) Engaging in conduct that the board determines is gross
44 malpractice, repeated malpractice or any malpractice resulting in the
45 death of a patient.

- 1 (g) Impersonating another doctor of naturopathic medicine or any
2 other practitioner of the healing arts.
- 3 (h) Falsely acting or assuming to act as a member, an employee or
4 an authorized agent of the board.
- 5 (i) Procuring or attempting to procure a license or a certificate
6 pursuant to this chapter by fraud, by misrepresentation or by knowingly
7 taking advantage of the mistake of another person or agency.
- 8 (j) Having professional connection with or lending one's name to
9 enhance or continue the activities of an illegal physician or an illegal
10 practitioner of any healing art.
- 11 (k) Representing that a manifestly incurable disease, injury,
12 ailment or infirmity can be permanently cured, or falsely or fraudulently
13 representing that a curable disease, injury, ailment or infirmity can be
14 cured within a stated time.
- 15 (l) Offering, undertaking or agreeing to cure or treat a disease,
16 injury, ailment or infirmity by a secret means, method, treatment,
17 medicine, substance, device or instrumentality.
- 18 (m) Refusing to divulge to the board on demand the means, method,
19 treatment, medicine, substance, device or instrumentality used in the
20 treatment of a disease, injury, ailment or infirmity.
- 21 (n) Giving or receiving, or aiding or abetting the giving or
22 receiving of, rebates, either directly or indirectly.
- 23 (o) Knowingly making any false or fraudulent statement, written or
24 oral, in connection with the practice of naturopathic medicine or any
25 naturopathic treatment method.
- 26 (p) Engaging in immorality or misconduct that tends to discredit
27 the naturopathic profession.
- 28 (q) Having a license refused, revoked or suspended by any other
29 state, district or territory of the United States or any other country,
30 unless it can be shown that this action was not due to reasons that relate
31 to the ability to safely and skillfully practice as a doctor of
32 naturopathic medicine or to any act of unprofessional conduct in this
33 paragraph.
- 34 (r) Engaging in any conduct or practice that is contrary to
35 recognized standards of ethics of the naturopathic profession, any conduct
36 or practice that does or might constitute a danger to the health, welfare
37 or safety of the patient or the public, or any conduct, practice or
38 condition that does or might impair the ability to safely and skillfully
39 practice as a doctor of naturopathic medicine.
- 40 (s) Failing to observe any federal, state, county or municipal law
41 relating to public health as a physician in this state.
- 42 (t) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or
43 assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate this
44 chapter or board rules.

1 (u) Committing false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading
2 advertising or advertising the quality of a medical or health care service
3 by a physician or by the physician's staff, employer or representative.

4 (v) Failing or refusing to maintain adequate medical records on a
5 patient or failing or refusing to make medical records in the physician's
6 possession promptly available to another physician or health care provider
7 who is licensed pursuant to chapter 7, 8, 13, 15, 17 or 29 of this title
8 on request and receipt of proper authorization to do so from the patient,
9 a minor patient's parent, the patient's legal guardian or the patient's
10 authorized representative or failing to comply with title 12, chapter 13,
11 article 7.1.

12 (w) Referring a patient to a diagnostic or treatment facility or
13 prescribing goods and services without disclosing in writing to the
14 patient that the physician has a pecuniary interest in the facility, goods
15 or services to which the patient is referred or prescribed. This
16 subdivision does not apply to a referral by one physician or practitioner
17 to another physician or practitioner within a group of physicians or
18 practitioners practicing together.

19 (x) Engaging in sexual intimacies with a patient in the course of
20 direct treatment.

21 (y) Failing to dispense drugs and devices in compliance with
22 article 4 of this chapter.

23 (z) Administering, dispensing or prescribing any drug or a device
24 for other than an accepted therapeutic purpose.

25 (aa) Falsely representing or holding oneself out as being a
26 specialist or representation by a doctor of naturopathic medicine or the
27 doctor's staff, employer or representative that the doctor is boarded or
28 board certified if this is not true or that standing is not current.

29 (bb) Delegating professional duties and responsibilities to a
30 person if the person has not been approved or qualified by licensure or by
31 certification to perform these duties or responsibilities.

32 (cc) Failing to appropriately supervise a naturopathic medical
33 student, a nurse, a medical assistant, a health care provider or a
34 technician who is employed by or assigned to the physician during the
35 performance of delegated professional duties and responsibilities.

36 (dd) Using experimental forms of diagnosis or treatment without
37 adequate informed consent of the patient or the patient's legal guardian
38 and without conforming to experimental criteria, including protocols,
39 detailed records, periodic analysis of results and periodic review by a
40 medical peer review committee as approved by the United States food and
41 drug administration or its successor agency.

42 (ee) Failing to furnish information in a timely manner to the board
43 or investigators or representatives of the board if this information is
44 legally requested by the board and failing to allow properly authorized
45 board personnel on demand to examine and have access to documents, reports

1 and records maintained by the physician that relate to the physician's
2 medical practice or medically related activities.

3 (ff) Failing to report in writing to the board evidence that a
4 person who is licensed, certified or registered pursuant to this chapter
5 is or may be medically incompetent, guilty of unprofessional conduct or
6 mentally or physically unable to safely practice or assist in the practice
7 of naturopathic medicine.

8 (gg) Conducting or engaging in an internship or preceptorship in
9 naturopathic medicine without being approved and registered by the board
10 for that internship or preceptorship.

11 (hh) Signing a blank, undated or predated prescription form.

12 (ii) Engaging in conduct that the board determines is gross
13 negligence, repeated negligence or negligence resulting in harm or death
14 to a patient.

15 (jj) Knowingly making a false or misleading statement in oral
16 testimony to the board on a form required by the board or in written
17 correspondence to the board, including attachments to that correspondence.

18 (kk) The failure of a physician who is the chief medical officer,
19 the executive officer or the chief of staff of an internship, a
20 preceptorship or a clinical training program to report in writing to the
21 board that the privileges of a doctor of naturopathic medicine, a
22 naturopathic medical student or a medical assistant have been denied,
23 limited, revoked or suspended because that doctor's, student's or
24 assistant's actions appear to indicate that the person is or may be
25 medically incompetent, is or may be guilty of unprofessional conduct or is
26 or may be unable to safely engage or assist in the practice of
27 naturopathic medicine.

28 (ll) Having action taken against a doctor of naturopathic medicine
29 by a licensing or regulatory board in another jurisdiction due to that
30 doctor's mental or physical inability to engage safely in the practice of
31 naturopathic medicine or the doctor's medical incompetence or for
32 unprofessional conduct as defined by that licensing or regulatory board
33 and that corresponds directly or indirectly to an act of unprofessional
34 conduct prescribed by this paragraph. The action taken may include
35 refusing, denying, revoking or suspending a license, otherwise limiting,
36 restricting or monitoring a licensee or placing a licensee on probation by
37 that licensing or regulatory board.

38 (mm) Having sanctions imposed by an agency of the federal
39 government, including restricting, suspending, limiting or removing a
40 person from the practice of naturopathic medicine or restricting that
41 person's ability to obtain financial remuneration.

42 (nn) Violating any formal order, probation, consent agreement or
43 stipulation issued or entered into by the board pursuant to this chapter.

1 (oo) Refusing to submit to a body fluid examination pursuant to a
2 board investigation of alleged substance abuse by a doctor of naturopathic
3 medicine.

4 (pp) Charging a fee for services not rendered or dividing a
5 professional fee for patient referrals among health care providers or
6 health care institutions or between these providers and institutions or a
7 contractual arrangement that has this effect.

8 (qq) Obtaining a fee by fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

9 (rr) Charging or collecting a clearly excessive fee. In
10 determining whether a fee is clearly excessive, the board shall consider
11 the fee or range of fees customarily charged in this state for similar
12 services, in light of modifying factors such as the time required, the
13 complexity of the service and the skill required to perform the service
14 properly. This subdivision does not apply if there is a clear written
15 contract for a fixed fee between the physician and the patient that was
16 entered into before the service was provided.

17 (ss) With the exception of heavy metal poisoning, using chelation
18 therapy in the treatment of arteriosclerosis or as any other form of
19 therapy without adequate informed patient consent and without conforming
20 to generally accepted experimental criteria, including protocols, detailed
21 records, periodic analysis of results and periodic review by a medical
22 peer review committee.

23 (tt) Using a controlled substance unless it is prescribed by
24 another physician for use during a prescribed course of treatment.

25 (uu) Prescribing, dispensing or administering anabolic androgenic
26 steroids for other than therapeutic purposes.

27 (vv) Except in an emergency or urgent care situation, prescribing
28 or dispensing a controlled substance to a member of the naturopathic
29 physician's immediate family.

30 (ww) Prescribing, dispensing or furnishing a prescription
31 medication or a prescription-only device as defined in section 32-1901 to
32 a person unless the licensee first conducts a physical examination of that
33 person or has previously established a doctor-patient relationship. The
34 physical examination may be conducted through telehealth as defined in
35 section 36-3601 unless the examination is for the purpose of obtaining a
36 written certification from the physician for the purposes of title 36,
37 chapter 28.1. This subdivision does not apply to:

38 (i) A licensee who provides temporary patient supervision on behalf
39 of the patient's regular treating licensed health care professional.

40 (ii) An emergency medical situation as defined in section 41-1831.

41 (iii) Prescriptions written to prepare a patient for a medical
42 examination.

43 (iv) Prescriptions written or prescription medications issued for
44 use by a county or tribal public health department for immunization
45 programs or emergency treatment or in response to an infectious disease

1 investigation, a public health emergency, an infectious disease outbreak
2 or an act of bioterrorism. For the purposes of this item, "bioterrorism"
3 has the same meaning prescribed in section 36-781.

4 (v) Prescriptions written or antimicrobials dispensed to a contact
5 as defined in section 36-661 who is believed to have had significant
6 exposure risk as defined in section 36-661 with another person who has
7 been diagnosed with a communicable disease as defined in section 36-661 by
8 the prescribing or dispensing physician.

9 (vi) Prescriptions written by a licensee through a telehealth
10 program that is covered by the policies and procedures adopted by the
11 administrator of a hospital or outpatient treatment center.

12 (xx) If medical treatment is considered experimental or
13 investigational, failing to include in a patient's record a consent to
14 treatment document that is signed by the patient or the patient's parent
15 or legal guardian and that indicates that the patient or the patient's
16 parent or legal guardian has been informed of the risk of any treatment to
17 be provided and the expected cost of that treatment.

18 (yy) When issuing a written certification as defined in section
19 36-2801, failing or refusing to include in the adequate medical records of
20 a patient a copy of all of the following:

21 (i) The medical records relied on by the physician to support the
22 diagnosis or confirmed diagnosis of the patient's debilitating medical
23 condition.

24 (ii) The written certification.

25 (iii) The patient's profile on the Arizona board of pharmacy
26 controlled substances prescription monitoring program database.

27 (zz) Dispensing a schedule II controlled substance that is an
28 opioid.