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Office

S.B. 385
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 385's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Johnson

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill creates a license to practice naturopathic medicine under the State Medical Board. This will result in administrative and eLicense costs for the Board that may be at least partially offset by licensing fee revenue collected. The total costs, as well as the amount of revenue collected, will depend on the number of individuals seeking licensure.
- The bill may result in additional court costs if there are any violations of the bill's provisions. However, any potential costs are expected to be minimal.

Detailed Analysis

License to practice naturopathic medicine

The bill creates a license to practice naturopathic medicine under the State Medical Board and requires the State Medical Board to implement and administer the Naturopathic Medicine Licensing Law. The bill prohibits the Board from adopting rules that limit the naturopathic devices, substances, and therapies that the holder of a license to practice naturopathic medicine may administer, furnish, order, perform, or prescribe. The bill outlines application and eligibility requirements, as well as the scope of practice for licensed individuals. It also outlines circumstances in which the Board may limit, revoke, suspend, or refuse to issue, renew, or reinstate a license.

The bill prohibits an individual from practicing naturopathic medicine or representing oneself as a naturopath unless the individual holds a current, valid license to practice naturopathic medicine. An individual who violates this prohibition is guilty of a felony of the fifth degree on a first offense and a felony of the fourth degree on each subsequent offense. A physician, physician assistant, registered nurse, or dietitian is not required to be separately licensed as a naturopath to perform tasks that fall under a naturopath's scope of practice.

Fiscal analysis

The bill will result in one-time and ongoing costs to the State Medical Board to regulate the practice of naturopathic medicine. These costs include processing applications, investigating complaints, responding to questions, and rule promulgation. There will also be costs to add these licenses to the eLicense system. The cost to add a license type to eLicense depends on a variety of factors, including whether the modification is for a new or existing license type, whether any historic or external information must be input and integrated, the number of licenses, and the standards adopted. Costs will be at least partially offset by licensing fee revenue collected. The bill requires the Board to charge application and renewal fees of \$305. The total regulatory costs and the amount of revenue collected will depend on the number of individuals seeking licensure. Fee revenue collected by the Board is deposited into the State Medical Board Operating Fund (Fund 5C60). Fund 5C60 is the Board's operating account into which receipts are deposited and from which expenses are paid.

There could also be court costs for any violations of the bill's prohibitions. These costs will depend on the number of violations but are expected to be minimal.