



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 310**

February Session, 2022

Senate Bill No. 280

*Senate, April 5, 2022*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. MOORE of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING NATUROPATHS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-28e of the general statutes is amended by  
2 adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

3 (NEW) (d) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Social  
4 Services shall amend the Medicaid state plan to add services provided  
5 by a naturopath licensed pursuant to chapter 373 as a covered service.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-28e
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**HS** Joint Favorable

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	At least \$100,000	At least \$100,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to amend the Medicaid state plan to include Medicaid coverage for services provided by licensed naturopaths for adults 21 years and older, which results in a cost to the state of at least \$100,000 per fiscal year. The total cost will be dependent on utilization rates of these services by adults 21 years and older.

For context, these services are already covered by Medicaid for children under the age of 21. In CY 2021, children utilized approximately 2,800 units of service resulting in gross Medicaid costs of \$194,500.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: Department of Social Services Caseload Information

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 280*****AN ACT CONCERNING NATUROPATHS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services commissioner to amend the Medicaid state plan by October 1, 2022, to provide Medicaid coverage for services provided by a licensed naturopath.

By law, the practice of naturopathy means the science, art, and practice of healing by natural methods as recognized by the Council of Naturopathic Medical Education. It includes disease diagnosis, prevention, and treatment and health optimization by stimulating and supporting the body's natural healing processes, as approved by the State Board of Naturopathic Examiners with the consent of the Department of Public Health commissioner (CGS § 20-34).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/24/2022)