

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/18
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Study Efficacy of Naprapathic Medicine SJM 15
ANALYST Chilton

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		TBD		TBD	Nonrecurring	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Related to House Memorial 12, Senate Bill 35, and Senate Bill 127.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Medical Board (MB)
Higher Education Department (HED)

Response Not Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

Noting the severity of the ongoing opioid overuse and abuse epidemic and the need for alternatives to opioids for the treatment of pain, this memorial asks the Department of Health to study the efficacy of naprapathic medicine in cooperation with the Southwest University of Naprapathic Medicine (located in Santa Fe) and to report its findings to the Legislative Interim Committee on Health and Human Services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no appropriations in the bill. Agency time in studying the efficacy of naprapathic medicine and reporting its findings would be the memorial's only fiscal effect.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the National College of Naprapathic Medicine’s website (napmed.edu), naprapathic physicians are pain specialists:

Naprapathic Medicine is a system of healthcare that employs Manual Medicine, Non-Invasive Modalities, Nutritional Counseling, and Therapeutic and Rehabilitative Exercise in the treatment of pain caused by Connective Tissue Disorders.

Connective tissue supports the spinal column and all joints and articulations of the body. Connective Tissue Disorders are characterized by abnormal rigid and/or contracted (strained) ligaments, tendons and muscles. These disorders interfere with nerve conduction and the circulation of blood and lymph. This can result in pain and inflammation to the affected area of the body. Causes of connective tissue disorders can include traumatic injury (car accidents, sports injuries, falls, etc.), RMS (repetitive motion syndrome, such as work-related computer or machine use), heavy lifting and improper posture.

Doctors of Naprapathic Medicine are pain relief specialists and use a four-fold strategy in the treatment of connective tissue disorders.

1. Manual Medicine. Hands-on (gentle) connective tissue manipulation (CTM) to the spine, joints and articulations of the body.
2. Non-invasive Therapeutic Modalities. The use of the effective properties of heat, cold, light, water, radiant energy, electricity, sound, air and assistive devices for the purpose of preventing, correcting or alleviating a physical disability. Modalities include ultrasound, electro-stimulation and low-level laser therapy (LLLT, also known as “cold laser therapy”).
3. Nutritional Counseling. Recommendations for dietary changes, food supplementation (as through the use of herbs, vitamins and minerals) to assist the body in achieving optimal health.
4. Therapeutic and Rehabilitative Exercise. Along with postural counseling, therapeutic and rehabilitative exercise can be used to strengthen tissues, increase blood flow, and improve posture, contributing to healing and pain relief.

The American Medical Association does not comment on the efficacy of naprapathic medicine, but states, “Currently, 18 states and the District of Columbia have licensing or regulation laws for naturopaths. In these states, naturopathic doctors are required to graduate from an accredited four-year residential naturopathic medical school and pass a postdoctoral board examination (NPLEX) in order to receive a license. Licensed naturopathic physicians must fulfill state-mandated continuing education requirements annually, and will have a specific scope of practice defined by their state's law.” New Mexico is one of 32 states that do not license naprapathic doctors.

The New Mexico Medical Board states “Naprapathy has proven to be valuable in other forms of pain in joints, connective tissue, tendons and fascia, and spinal disorders, and could play a valuable role in the management of a significant variety of chronic pain disorders.”

RELATIONSHIP with House Memorial 12 and Senate Bill 35, both of which deal specifically

with the opioid epidemic, and Senate Bill 127, which would set up and fund a pilot study of a multi-disciplinary approach to the problem of chronic pain in New Mexico.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

A report on naprapathic medicine would not be made as a result of collaboration between the Department of Health and the Southwest College of Naprapathic Medicine. In the words of MB, “The State of New Mexico would lose a valuable opportunity to explore a theoretically proven and valuable adjunct to the treatment of many chronic somatic pain disorders.”

LAC/al