

SESSION OF 2019

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2185**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Public  
Health and Welfare

**Brief\***

HB 2185, as amended, would revise the Naturopathic Doctor Licensure Act and the Radiologic Technologists Practice Act. The bill would amend the definition of “naturopathic medicine” in the Naturopathic Doctor Licensure Act to include ordering diagnostic imaging studies, including, but not limited to, x-ray, ultrasound, mammogram, bone densitometry, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and electrocardiograms, except that naturopathic doctors would be required to refer patients to an appropriately licensed and qualified healthcare professional to conduct diagnostic imaging studies and interpret the results of such studies. The bill would also amend the definition of “licensed practitioner” in the Radiologic Technologists Practice Act to include a Kansas licensed physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, and naturopathic doctor.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of Representative Barker on behalf of the Kansas Naturopathic Providers Association.

In the House Committee hearing, a representative of the Kansas Naturopathic Doctor’s Association (Association) provided proponent testimony stating since the inception of

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

licensure for a naturopathic doctor, it has been common practice for naturopathic doctors to order diagnostic imaging. The representative further stated the Association's position is this bill is a clarification of current practice.

A representative from the Kansas Medical Society provided written-only neutral testimony. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill by deleting "diagnostic imaging" from the definition of naturopathic medicine and by inserting language to specify ordering diagnostic imaging studies would be allowed under the Naturopathic Doctor Licensure Act.

In the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare hearing, representatives of the Association testified the Association only recently became aware naturopathic doctors are not statutorily authorized to order diagnostic imaging, but it has been common practice since the licensure of naturopathic doctors. The representatives stated the bill amends statutes to reflect current practice.

A representative from the Kansas Medical Society provided written-only neutral testimony. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to add Kansas licensed physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and naturopathic doctors to the definition of a licensed practitioner in the Radiologic Technologists Practice Act and to make a technical amendment.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Board of Healing Arts indicates enactment of the bill could increase responsibilities and workload of staff if there is an increase in complaints. The Board further indicates it has no way to estimate the additional number of complaints that would be received or the fiscal effect that would result.