

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0262R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Curran, Spector, Middleton, Clarke, Welch, Branch
Introduced and adopted: March 7, 2011

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**In Support of State Legislation – Senate Bill 560 - Health Occupations
- State Board of Naturopathic Medicine**

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3 FOR the purpose of expressing support for this legislation that establishes the State Board of
4 Naturopathic Medicine and the Fund, specifies the duties of the Board, and promulgates rules
5 and regulations for obtaining a license in naturopathic medicine; urging the Honorable Chair
6 and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to give
7 the bill a favorable report; requesting the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore
8 City Senate and House Delegations to the 2011 Maryland General Assembly to secure
9 passage of the provisions of Senate Bill 560 or the companion House Bill 1100; and calling
10 upon the Governor to sign the measure into law.

Recitals

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12 The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians defines naturopathic medicine as
13 “based on the belief that the human body has an innate healing ability. Naturopathic doctors
14 (NDs) teach their patients to use diet, exercise, lifestyle changes, and cutting edge natural
15 therapies to enhance their bodies’ ability to ward off and combat disease. NDs view the patient
16 as a complex interrelated system (a whole person), not as a clogged artery or a tumor.
17 Naturopathic physicians craft comprehensive treatment plans that blend the best of modern
18 medical science and traditional natural medical approaches to not only treat disease, but to
19 restore health.”

20 As reported by the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges, there are
21 currently 15 states, 5 Canadian provinces, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories of
22 Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands that have laws regulating naturopathic doctors. In these
23 states and provinces, naturopathic doctors are required to graduate from a 4-year, residential
24 naturopathic medical school and pass an extensive postdoctoral board examination (NPLEX) in
25 order to receive a license.

26 Licensed naturopathic physicians must fulfill state- or province-mandated continuing
27 education requirements annually and have a specific scope of practice as defined by the law in
28 their state or province. The provisions of Senate Bill 560/House Bill 1100 provide a
29 comprehensive framework for the licensing of NDs and the regulation of the practice of
30 Naturopathic Medicine in the State of Maryland.

31 As the popularity, availability, and use of supplements and herbal remedies grows, licensure
32 for NDs, who are experts in the safe and appropriate use of natural-based therapies, will ensure
33 that citizens of Maryland have access to qualified health-care practitioners to monitor drug-herb

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 11-0262R

1 interactions or safe dosages of nutritional supplements, as well as access to a cost-effective
2 approach to primary health care.

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
4 Body supports passage of this legislation that establishes the State Board of Naturopathic
5 Medicine and the Fund, specifies the duties of the Board, and promulgates rules and regulations
6 for obtaining a license in naturopathic medicine; urges the Honorable Chair and Members of the
7 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to give the bill a favorable
8 report; requests the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House
9 Delegations to the 2011 Maryland General Assembly to secure passage of the provisions of
10 Senate Bill 560 or the companion House Bill 1100; and calls upon the Governor to sign the
11 measure into law.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
13 Mayor, the Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental
14 Affairs Committee, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House
15 Delegations to the 2011 Maryland General Assembly, the Baltimore Health Commissioner, the
16 Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of State Relations, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
17 to the City Council.