

**Senate proposal of amendment**

**H. 870**

An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec. 1a to read as follows:

\* \* \* Background Checks for Psychologists \* \* \*

Sec. 1a. 3 V.S.A. § 123 be amended to read:

§ 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

\* \* \*

(j)(1) The Office may inquire into the criminal background histories of applicants for initial licensure and for license renewal of any Office-issued credential, including a license, certification, registration, or specialty designation for the following professions:

\* \* \*

(I) speech-language pathologists licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 87; ~~and~~

(J) individuals registered on the roster of psychotherapists who are nonlicensed and noncertified; and

(K) psychologists licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 55.

\* \* \*

Second: By adding reader assistance headings and three new sections to be Secs. 2a–2c to read as follows:

\* \* \* Naturopathic Physicians Filing of Birth and Death Certificates \* \* \*

Sec. 2a. 18 V.S.A. § 4999 is amended to read:

§ 4999. DEFINITIONS

As used in this part, ~~unless the context requires otherwise~~:

\* \* \*

(2) “Licensed health care professional<sup>2</sup>,” as used in 18 V.S.A. Ch. 107, means a physician, a physician assistant, a naturopathic physician, or an advanced practice registered nurse.

\* \* \*

Sec 2b. 18 V.S.A. § 5071 is amended to read:

§ 5071. BIRTH CERTIFICATES; WHO TO MAKE; RETURN

(a) On or before the fifth business day of each live birth that occurs in this State, the attending physician or designee, naturopathic physician or designee, or midwife or, if no attending physician or designee, naturopathic physician or designee, or midwife is present, a parent of the child or a legal guardian of a mother under 18 years of age shall file with the State Registrar a report of birth in the form and manner prescribed by the State Registrar. The State Registrar shall register the report in the Statewide Registration System if it has been completed properly and filed in accordance with this chapter. The portion of the registered birth report that is not confidential under section 5014 of this title is the birth certificate.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Naturopathic Physicians Filing Technical Advisory Group \* \* \*

Sec 2c. NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

(a) On or before September 1, 2024, the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health or designee shall convene the first meeting of the Naturopathic Physicians Technical Advisory Group. The Technical Advisory Group shall discuss the potential integration of naturopathic physicians into statewide policies regarding Vermont's Patient Choice at End of Life laws (18 V.S.A. chapter 113), do not resuscitate (DNR) orders and advanced directives, and the creation of clinician orders for life-sustaining treatment (COLST). The Technical Advisory Group shall also consider the requirements of integrating naturopathic physicians into statewide policies.

(b) The Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health or designee shall chair any meeting or meetings described in this section.

(c) The following individuals and entities shall be invited to participate in the meeting or meetings described in this section:

- (1) the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges;
- (2) the Office of Professional Regulation;
- (3) Patient Choices Vermont;
- (4) the Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians;
- (5) the Vermont Ethics Network;
- (6) the Vermont Medical Society; and
- (7) other entities as needed related to naturopathic medical education.

(d) The Commissioner of the Department of Health shall provide recommendations based on the work of the Technical Advisory Group on or

before December 1, 2024, to the House Committees on Health Care and on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Government Operations.

(e) The Technical Advisory Group shall cease to exist on December 31, 2024.

Third: By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec. 18a to read as follows:

\* \* \* Office of Professional Regulation Funding Structure Study \* \* \*

Sec. 18a. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; FUNDING  
STRUCTURE STUDY

The Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, shall conduct a study reviewing the funding structure of the Office of Professional Regulation. The Office of Professional Regulation shall report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations by January 1, 2025 with an assessment of the benefits and challenges of the current funding model for the Office of Professional Regulation, as established in 3 V.S.A. § 124, and with any recommendations for alternative models for funding the Office of Professional Regulation.