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REGISTER ACUPUNCTURISTS

House Bills 4524 and 4525
Sponsor: Rep. Michael J. Bennane
Committee: Public Health

Complete to 7-20-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 4524 AND 4525 AS INTRODUCED 3-23-93

The bills would create a state registration system for acupuncturists, allow people to go to acupuncturists under certain circumstances without a physician's referral, and set registration fees. The bills are tie-barred to each other.

House Bill 4524 would amend the Public Health Code (MCL 333.16131 et al.) to prohibit people from calling themselves "acupuncturists" or "registered acupuncturists" unless they were registered with the state. The bill would define "acupuncturist," create a board of acupuncture in the Department of Licensing and Regulation, and specify certain registration requirements.

Definition of "acupuncturist." The bill would define "acupuncturist" to mean someone who was registered under the bill and who prevented (or modified the perception of) pain or who normalized physiological functions (including pain control) by the insertion of needles, the application of probe tips, or noninvasive means. Acupuncturists also could use superficial heat, electrical stimulation, or needles, and herbal remedies.

The Michigan Board of Acupuncture. The bill would create a five-member board of acupuncture in the Department of Licensing and Regulation. The board would consist of three non-physician acupuncturists who were certified or otherwise approved by a national organization that certified or approved acupuncturists and who had actively practiced or taught acupuncture for at least two years immediately preceding their appointment; one physician (either an MD or a DO); and one public member.

In establishing requirements for registration, the board could adopt by reference requirements set by a national organization that certified or otherwise approved acupuncturists.

"Grandfather" clause. For two years after the board of acupuncture promulgated rules to specify registration for acupuncturists, the board would be required to grant a certificate of registration to someone who had been practicing acupuncture for at least three of the five years immediately preceding his or her application for registration.

Exemption. The bill would exempt from its requirements any other certified, licensed, or statutorily recognized member of any other profession who practiced as authorized by law (and individuals who practiced massage as defined in the Occupational Code), so long as they didn't hold themselves out to be acupuncturists registered under the bill.

House Bills 4524 and 4525 (7-20-93)

House Bill 4525 would amend the State License Fee Act (MCL 338.2252) to set the following fees for acupuncturist applications, examinations, and annual registrations:

Application processing fee	\$20
Examination fee	\$50
Annual registration fee	\$50