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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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## SB 1303 (Wahab) - Naturopathic Doctors Act

**Version:** April 28, 2026

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 11, 2026

**Policy Vote:** B., P. & E.D. 10 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Janelle Miyashiro

**Bill Summary:** SB 1303 is the sunset bill for the California Board of Naturopathic Medicine (CBNM) and is intended to make changes recommended during the joint sunset review of the board.

**Fiscal Impact:** The 2026-27 Governor's Budget provides approximately \$679,000 (Naturopathic Doctors Fund) and 3.0 positions to support the continued operation of the board's licensing and enforcement activities.

CBNM projects a revenue increase, from \$727,000 to \$805,000, from biennial license renewal cycles and the new Fictitious Name Permit (FNP) application and renewal fees. CBNM anticipates the FNP program is expected to generate approximately \$203,000 over four years. Any associated regulatory updates are anticipated to result in minimal, absorbable workload.

The Office of Information Services notes absorbable IT costs of \$16,000 to make updates to support the new FNP program.

**Background:** In March 2026, the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions (Committees) began their comprehensive sunset review oversight of 10 regulatory entities, including the board. The Committees conducted three oversight hearings. This bill and the accompanying sunset bills are intended to implement legislative changes as recommended by staff of the Committees, and which are reflected in the Background Papers prepared by Committee staff for each agency and program reviewed this year.

### Proposed Law:

- Clarifies that board member appointments expire four years from the date of appointment.
- Staggers Governor-appointed board member terms with two members serving an initial term of two years, two members serving an initial term of three years, and three members serving and initial term of four years.
- Repeals board authority to grant a license to an applicant who graduated before 1986, before the NPLEX, and passed a state or Canadian province naturopathic licensing examination.
- Authorizes the Board to accept voluntary license cancelation provided the request is not in lieu of administrative enforcement action.

- Implements a fictitious name permit program, including eligibility criteria, causes for disciplinary action, and authority to adopt regulations.
- Specifies that misuse of a fictitious name is unprofessional conduct.
- Authorizes the Board to charge the following:
  - A fee of one half the current active license fee for an inactive license.
  - A fee for a fictitious name permit.
  - A fictitious name permit renewal fee.
- States legislative intent to work with stakeholders and the CBNM to evaluate opportunities to authorize naturopathic doctors to provide additional services to patients for which they are trained, educated, and qualified and that will expand access to safe, holistic, and preventive care for California's consumers.
- Extends the sunset date for the CBNM by four years, until January 1, 2031.

**Related Legislation:** SB 1302 (Wahab, 2026) is the Board of Registered Nursing sunset bill. SB 1302 is pending in this committee.

SB 1304 (Wahab, 2026) is the Board of Respiratory Care sunset bill. SB 1304 is pending in this committee.

SB 1363 (Wahab, 2026) is the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology sunset bill. SB 1363 is pending in this committee.

SB 1368 (Wahab, 2026) is the Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board sunset bill. SB 1368 is pending in this committee.

AB 2771 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education sunset bill. AB 2771 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2772 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the California Council for Interior Design Certification sunset bill. AB 2772 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2773 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the California Board of Occupational Therapy sunset bill. AB 2773 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2774 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the Physical Therapy Board of California sunset bill. AB 2774 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2775 (Committee on Business and Professions, 2026) is the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners sunset bill. AB 2775 is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.