Board of Naturopathy

Naturopathy is a system of treatment of disease that avoids drugs and surgery and emphasizes the use of natural agents (air, water, sunshine) and physical means (manipulation and electrical treatment). The Board of Naturopathic Healing was created in 1981 with the enactment of Assembly Bill 444. The Nevada Revised Statutes 633A.150 requires that the Board consist of the following members appointed by the Governor: three licensed naturopaths engaged in the practice of naturopathic healing for more than two years in this state, one licensed physician who is a valid Nevada resident, and one public member who is neither a licensed health practitioner nor a health administrator. The statute allowed the initial naturopaths on the Board to be licensed and engaged in practice in another state and authorized their appointment to the Board to constitute their licensure in Nevada.

The first chairman of the Board submitted his resignation in 1982, and the three other members resigned in 1983, leaving the one non-health practitioner remaining, who was unable to take any action for lack of a quorum. Until the Governor appointed qualified members, the Board remained inactive. Meanwhile, the legislative subcommittee received testimony, and correspondence alleging that certain licensed naturopaths in the state were practicing with questionable, if not fraudulent credentials. The subcommittee recommended a modification of the board's membership, and that the skills and knowledge of all Nevada licensed naturopaths be thoroughly examined and verified. There appeared to be little activity of the Board after 1983, and in 1987 the Assembly enacted Bill no. 438 (Chapter 542) that rendered the Board of Naturopathy defunct. Section 1 - pertinent statutes were repealed; section 2 - any license issued by the Board expired on July 1, 1987; section 3 - terms of the members of the Board expired on the same date.