

SB 467 (MOMnibus Act) 4.3

Bill Number: [SB 467](#) (HB 552)

Bill Name: 2023 MOMnibus Act

Bill Sponsors: Murdock, Batch, Robinson

Movement: Referred to Budget and Rules

Executive Summary: Various policies and appropriations for programs based around birth peoples, especially black women.

Detailed Summary:

- Would create a maternal mortality prevention grant program run by DHHS to establish programs that would offer programs and resources improving maternal health outcomes for black women.
- Would appropriate salary funds to DHHS for a full time Public Health Program Coordinator within DHHS to help run the Maternal Mortality Prevention Grant Program
- Would require DHHS to establish an implicit bias training program for healthcare professionals in perinatal care, would collaborate with community based organizations that are led by black women who serve primarily black birthing people to run this program.
 - Would require all healthcare professionals holding a license to complete this course.
- Would establish rights of perinatal care patients at any birthing center, hospital, or clinic:
 - To be informed of health care requirements following discharge
 - Be informed that these requirements shall be shared with family if the patient authorizes this.
 - To participate in decisions regarding their health care and the right to refuse care.
 - To receive appropriate pain assessment and treatment.
 - To receive care free of discrimination of any kind.
 - To receive information of how to file a complaint with DHHS.
- Program to support and diversify lactation consultant training programs, includes an appropriation of \$500,000.

SB 491 (Genetic Counselors) 4.3

Bill Number: [SB 491](#) (HB 587)

Bill Name: NC Genetic Counselors Workforce Act

Bill Sponsors: Moffitt, Krawiec

Movement: Referred to rules

Executive Summary: Would establish a Genetic Counselors Licensure Board and formally regulate the process of genetic counseling.

Detailed Summary:

- Would establish a licensing board specifically for genetic counselors.
 - The board shall consist of 5 members, serving staggered terms, two appointed genetic counselors from the general assembly, and appointees from the governor.
 - The board will meet at least two times annually.
- The board will have the power to issue, review, revoke, or refuse to issue any license, as well as establish fees, investigate and more.
- The board will report annually to the governor.
- To qualify for licensure you must meet the following standards:
 - Be at least 18.
 - Good moral character.
 - Submit an application and fee.
 - Provide evidence of having certification as a genetic counselor by The American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC).
 - Meets all licensure requirements, including the criminal history requirements.
 - Temporary licensure may be granted to those who are pending ABGC certification exam.
- Reciprocity may be granted for licensees of other states.
- Anyone who does not meet the above standards but has been a genetic counselor for 10 years or more may apply to the board to get an alternative application for licensure.
- The scope of practice of a genetic counselor will be the following:
 - Obtain and evaluate individual, family, and medical histories to determine genetic risk for genetic or medical conditions and diseases in a patient, the patient's children, and other family members.
 - Discuss the features, natural history, means of diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors, and management of risk for genetic or medical conditions.
 - Identify, order, and coordinate genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies as appropriate for the genetic assessment.
 - Integrate genetic laboratory test results and other diagnostic studies with personal and family medical history to assess and communicate risk factors for genetic or medical conditions and diseases.
 - Explain the clinical implications of genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and their results.
 - Evaluate the client's or family's responses to the condition or risk of recurrence and provide client-centered counseling and anticipatory guidance.
 - Identify and utilize community resources that provide medical, educational, financial, and psychosocial support and advocacy.

- Provide written documentation of medical, genetic, and counseling information for families and health care professionals.
- Only a person licensed under this law would be able to call themselves a "genetic counselor," "licensed genetic counselor," "gene counselor," "genetic consultant," "genetic associate," or any letters abbreviating those terms.
- Requires continuing education.
- Rules for violations and other standards all licensure boards hold.

SB 513 (Naturopath Scope) 4.3

Bill Number: [HB 557](#) ([SB 513](#))

Bill Name: North Carolina Healing Arts Commission

Bill Sponsors: Krawiec, P. Newton

Movement: Referred Rules

Executive Summary: Would allow naturopathic doctors to prescribe with a formulary and more through a licensing process. Would also create a healing arts commission and create licensure for reflexologists and music therapists.

Detailed Summary:

- Would create a healing arts with two members of the public and two members of each licensing profession. Some will be appointed by the general assembly, others the governor.
- Defines reflexology as a healing arts practice and profession and establishes a licensing committee.
- Defines music therapy as a healing arts practice and establishes a licensing committee.
- Defines naturopathic medicine as a healing arts profession and creates a licensing committee.
 - Requires students to have graduated from an approved program of naturopathic medicine in the United States or Canada with graduate level full time didactic and supervised clinical training, for at least 132 weeks and not less than 35 months.
 - A naturopathic doctor will not be allowed to do the following unless otherwise licensed to practice medicine in the state:
 - Prescribe, dispense, or administer any prescription drug or controlled substance except as authorized by this article
 - Use general or spinal anesthetics
 - Perform surgical procedures
 - Diagnose and treat cancer
 - Deliver children
 - Administer radiation therapy

- Defines the scope of naturopathic medicine as the following:
 - Dispense, administer, order, and advise the use of natural remedies derived from or substantially similar to molecular structure or function to natural sources for preventive and therapeutic purposes, including 48 food, extracts of food, nutraceuticals, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, enzymes, botanicals and their extracts, homeopathic remedies prepared according to the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States, and all dietary supplements and nonprescription drugs as defined by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 2 301, et seq.
 - Order and perform physicals.
 - Order, perform, and interpret laboratory tests.
 - Order diagnostic imaging including X-ray, MRI, CT scan, ultrasound, mammogram, and bone density test. Scope excludes, electrocardiograms, echocardiograms, electroencephalograms, and nuclear imaging.
 - Health and dietary counseling.
 - Perform care incidental to superficial lacerations and abrasions, including topical and local anesthetics.
 - Electromagnetic therapy, hot or cold hydrotherapy, physical medicine, and therapeutic exercise.
- A formulary council would also be formed to develop and recommend, on an ongoing basis, the formulary that naturopathic doctors can use. With "current naturopath prescribing standards". Council would include Two physicians and one pharmacist.

SB 597 (Pharmacists Collaborative Practice) 4.5

Bill Number: [SB 597](#)

Bill Name: Pharmacists/Collaborative Practice

Bill Sponsors: Hise, Krawiec

Movement: Referred to Rules

Executive Summary: Would create new rules that would expand pharmacist/physician collaborative practice which would expand pharmacist scope to allow testing and therapy.

Detailed Summary:

- A clinical pharmacist practitioner (CPP) would be able to order medications, tests, or devices with authorization from a physician.
- Any RN, LPN, or pharmacist who receives a drug therapy, laboratory test, or device order from a CPP must perform that order as if it was authorized by the physician.
- Group practices or institutions would be able to have a site specific collaborative practice agreement.

- There are specific guiding principles for the supervision by a physician of a CPP.
- CPPs must be reimbursed for these services by health plans.

SB 639 (Minor Consent/Transgender Care) 4.5

Bill Number: [SB 639](#)

Bill Name: Youth Health Protection Act

Bill Sponsors: Hise, B. Newton, Sanderson

Movement: Referred to Rules

Executive Summary: Would not allow disallow transgender care and remove the minor consent statute as currently written.

Detailed Summary:

- It shall be unlawful for any medical professional or mental health counselor to knowingly engage in the following practices upon a minor (anyone under the age of 18), or "affirm the minor's perception of their sex or appearance"
 - Performance of sterilizations, including castration, vasectomy, hysterectomy, oophorectomy, or penectomy.
 - Performance of a mastectomy.
 - Performing surgeries that alter tissue appearance of genitalia.
 - Prescribing administering or supplying gonadotropin releasing hormone analogues or other drugs that stimulate hormones or delay normal puberty.
 - Prescribing or administering testosterone or estrogen or progesterone to a minor in an amount greater than would normally be produced in "a healthy individual of that age and sex".
- No mental health professional or medical practitioner would be allowed to aid or abet the practices above to a minor.
 - The penalty for this is a \$1,000 fine per occurrence and revocation of licensure for a minimum of one year.
- The points in the first bullet would not apply to:
 - "the good faith medical decision of a parent with a child born with a medically verifiable genetic disorder of sexual development"
 - Treatment of an infection, disease, or disorder that has been caused by the performance of procedure listed above.
 - Any procedure performed due to a physical disorder, injury, or illness that would put the patient in danger of death or impairment of major bodily function.
- The state cannot not prohibit, impose any penalty, or take any adverse action against any individual who gives or receives counsel, advice, guidance, or any other speech or

communication, whether described as therapy or provided for a fee, consistent with conscience or religious belief.

- Parents may withhold consent for any treatment, activity, or mental health services that are designed and intended to form their child's conception of sex and gender or to treat gender.
- No state employee except for law enforcement personnel may coerce a minor to withhold information from a minor's parent.
- If a "government agent" has knowledge that a minor under their care has "exhibited symptoms" of gender dysphoria, nonconformity, etc. the person must notify parents/guardians immediately in writing.
- Includes whistleblower protections.
- Civil suits may be brought to any medical professional under this article.
- The state cannot enact any policies that would interfere with the "professional conduct and judgment of a mental health care professional or counselor, including speech, undertaken within the course of treatment and communication with clients, patients, other persons, or the public, including therapies, counseling, referrals, and education."
- The state will not pay for any gender transition procedures.
- Removes the exceptions written into current minor consent law. The law currently provides that minors can give consent for medical services in the diagnosis and treatment of pregnancy, abuse of controlled substances, emotional disturbance, and venereal disease. These exceptions would be removed under this bill.

SB 641 (Medical Ethics) 4.5

Bill Number: [SB 641](#)

Bill Name: Medical Ethics Defense (MED) Act

Bill Sponsors: Hise, B. Newton, Sanderson

Movement: Referred to Rules

Executive Summary: Would not allow termination or other career impediments for health care professionals/payers who refuse to participate or pay for certain medical practices based on conscience (defined as moral, religious, or ethical beliefs and principals, as well as these same values in a company's publishes guidelines, mission, etc.).

Detailed Summary:

- Medical practitioner, health care institution, or healthcare payer will have the right to not practice or pay for any medical treatment that violates their conscience (defined above).
 - They also will not be held civilly, criminally, or administratively, liable for exercising this "right of conscience".

- No person can discriminate against these professionals for exercising this right. Discrimination constitutes the following:
 - Termination of employment.
 - Transfer or demotion from current position.
 - Adverse administrative action.
 - Reassignment to a different shift or job title.
 - Increased administrative duties.
 - Refusal of staff privileges.
 - Refusal of board certification or loss of career specialty.
 - Reduction of wages, benefits, or privileges.
 - Refusal to award a grant, contract, or other program.
 - Refusal to provide residency training opportunities.
 - Denial, deprivation, or disqualification of licensure.
 - Withholding or disqualifying from financial aid and other assistance.
 - Impediments to creating any health care institution or payer or expanding or improving that health care institution or payer.
 - Impediments to acquiring, associating, or merging with any other health care institution or payer.
 - The threat of any action listed in this subdivision or any other penalty, 36 disciplinary, or retaliatory action
- Any medical practitioner, health care institution, or health care payor that holds itself as "publicly religious" can make employment decisions consistent with those beliefs.
- This bill will not override the need to provide emergency treatment, or abridge the constitution.
- All healthcare practitioners must consent to performing all abortions in writing, prior to performing, facilitating, referring, or participating. Staff cannot be assigned to perform an abortion without this.
- Civil action can be brought by medical practitioners, health care institutions, or payers under this article, including payment of damages.
- Includes protection from retaliation and a fine of \$500 per day.