OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 6544

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHARING OF GENETIC DATA BY GENETIC TESTING COMPANIES AND THE PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies from sharing an individual’s personally identifiable information, including genetic data, with health carriers (e.g., insurers or HMOs) or life insurance companies without the individual’s consent. It subjects violators to a civil penalty of up to $1,000 per violation. Under the bill, “direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies” are those that sell genetic tests directly to consumers without requiring a health care provider’s involvement.

Additionally, the bill modifies the scope of practice of naturopathy by including the practice of “physical sciences” of health instead of “mechanical and material sciences.” It also removes corrective and orthopedic gymnastics from the types of therapies naturopathic physicians may practice. Existing law already allows naturopathic physicians to practice (1) articular manipulation, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, and phototherapy and (2) sciences such as nutrition, dietetics, phytotherapy, and treatment by natural substances and applications.

The bill also permits the Department of Public Health (DPH), in consultation with the State Board of Naturopathic Examiners, to establish (1) educational, examination, or other requirements to allow a naturopath to prescribe, dispense, and administer prescription medications (excluding opioids) consistent with their scope of practice and (2) a naturopathic formulary of prescription medications (excluding opioids) that naturopaths who meet these requirements may use consistent with their practice and training.
At least triennially, DPH must consult the State Board of Naturopathic Examiners and update the prescription medication formulary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION
Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 14  Nay 11  (03/29/2019)