

# House Bill 3439

Sponsored by Representatives NOSSE, HELFRICH

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Makes insurers pay naturopathic doctors the same as a doctor, PA or NP when they do the same work. (Flesch Readability Score: 67.3).

Requires individual and group health benefit plans and benefit plans offered by the Public Employees' Benefit Board and the Oregon Educators Benefit Board to reimburse services provided by naturopathic physicians within the scope of their practice if the services are reimbursed when provided by licensed physicians, physician associates or nurse practitioners. Requires reimbursement paid to a naturopathic physician in independent practice to be in the same amount as reimbursement paid to a physician, physician associate or nurse practitioner.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to naturopathic physicians; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 243.144 and  
3 243.877.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of the Insurance Code.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

7 (a) **"Health benefit plan" has the meaning given that term in ORS 743B.005.**

8 (b) **"Independent practice" means a practice at which a naturopathic physician bills**  
9 **insurers for services provided by the naturopathic physician using the:**

10 (A) **Diagnosis and procedure codes applicable to the services;**

11 (B) **Naturopathic physician's own name; and**

12 (C) **Naturopathic physician's national provider identifier.**

13 (c) **"Naturopathic physician" has the meaning given that term in ORS 685.010.**

14 (d) **"Nurse Practitioner" has the meaning given that term in ORS 678.010.**

15 (e) **"Physician" has the meaning given that term in ORS 677.010.**

16 (f) **"Physician associate" has the meaning given that term in ORS 677.495.**

17 (2) **An individual or group health benefit plan that reimburses the cost of a service pro-**  
18 **vided by a physician, physician associate or nurse practitioner shall reimburse the cost of**  
19 **the same service provided by a naturopathic physician if the service is within the scope of**  
20 **practice of the naturopathic physician.**

21 (3) **An individual or group health benefit plan shall reimburse the cost of a service pro-**  
22 **vided by a naturopathic physician who is in an independent practice in the same amount and**  
23 **using the same payment methodology as the reimbursement paid under the plan to a physi-**  
24 **cian, physician associate or nurse practitioner providing the service in the same setting and**  
25 **geographic area.**

26 (4) **An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a physician, physician associate**  
27 **or nurse practitioner in order to comply with this section.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       **(5) This section is exempt from ORS 743A.001.**

2       **SECTION 3.** ORS 243.144, as amended by section 9, chapter 17, Oregon Laws 2024, is amended  
3 to read:

4       243.144. Benefit plans offered by the Public Employees' Benefit Board that reimburse the cost  
5 of medical and other health services and supplies must comply with the requirements for health  
6 benefit plan coverage described in:

7       (1) ORS 743A.058;

8       (2) ORS 743A.140;

9       (3) ORS 743A.141;

10      (4) ORS 743B.256;

11      (5) ORS 743B.287 (4);

12      (6) ORS 743B.420;

13      (7) ORS 743B.423;

14      (8) ORS 743B.601;

15      (9) ORS 743B.810;

16      (10) ORS 743A.325; *[and]*

17      (11) ORS 743A.051 (2)(c)[.]; **and**

18      **(12) Section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

19      **SECTION 4.** ORS 243.144, as amended by sections 9 and 10, chapter 17, Oregon Laws 2024, is  
20 amended to read:

21      243.144. Benefit plans offered by the Public Employees' Benefit Board that reimburse the cost  
22 of medical and other health services and supplies must comply with the requirements for health  
23 benefit plan coverage described in:

24      (1) ORS 743A.058;

25      (2) ORS 743A.140;

26      (3) ORS 743A.141;

27      (4) ORS 743B.256;

28      (5) ORS 743B.287 (4);

29      (6) ORS 743B.420;

30      (7) ORS 743B.423;

31      (8) ORS 743B.601;

32      (9) ORS 743B.810; *[and]*

33      (10) ORS 743A.325[.]; **and**

34      **(11) Section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

35      **SECTION 5.** ORS 243.877, as amended by section 11, chapter 17, Oregon Laws 2024, is amended  
36 to read:

37      243.877. Benefit plans offered by the Oregon Educators Benefit Board that reimburse the cost  
38 of medical and other health services and supplies must comply with the requirements for health  
39 benefit plan coverage described in:

40      (1) ORS 743A.058;

41      (2) ORS 743A.140;

42      (3) ORS 743A.141;

43      (4) ORS 743B.256;

44      (5) ORS 743B.287 (4);

45      (6) ORS 743B.420;

- 1 (7) ORS 743B.423;
- 2 (8) ORS 743B.601;
- 3 (9) ORS 743B.810;
- 4 (10) ORS 743A.325; [and]
- 5 (11) ORS 743A.051 (2)(c)[.]; **and**
- 6 **(12) Section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

7 **SECTION 6.** ORS 243.877, as amended by sections 11 and 12, chapter 17, Oregon Laws 2024, is  
8 amended to read:

9 243.877. Benefit plans offered by the Oregon Educators Benefit Board that reimburse the cost  
10 of medical and other health services and supplies must comply with the requirements for health  
11 benefit plan coverage described in:

- 12 (1) ORS 743A.058;
- 13 (2) ORS 743A.140;
- 14 (3) ORS 743A.141;
- 15 (4) ORS 743B.256;
- 16 (5) ORS 743B.287 (4);
- 17 (6) ORS 743B.420;
- 18 (7) ORS 743B.423;
- 19 (8) ORS 743B.601;
- 20 (9) ORS 743B.810; [and]
- 21 (10) ORS 743A.325[.]; **and**
- 22 **(11) Section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

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