

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians Statement
Regarding Vocational Nursing Under the Direction of Naturopathic Doctors

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) acknowledges the 2022 legislation, Senate Bill 994 (Jones, Chapter 713, Statutes of 2022), that specifically authorizes licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) to practice under the direction of licensed naturopathic doctors, effective January 1, 2023.

At its May 20, 2022 board meeting, the Board agreed by motion to accept a neutral position and take action to discuss with the author and sponsor.

Subsequent to that meeting, Board staff and counsel worked with the author's office to add clarifying language to the bill and presented a summary of six amendments to the bill for Board consideration, discussion, and approval.

- The amendments, which were considered and approved by Board vote on August 12, 2022, may be found at the Board's website at:
https://www.bvnpt.ca.gov/about_us/meetings/materials/20220812_9aai.pdf
- The full text of the bill, as signed by the Governor and chaptered by the Secretary of State on August 28, 2022, may be found at:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB994

While the scope of practice for the licensed vocational nurse has not changed, SB 994 (Jones) revises the definition of oversight of LVNs to additionally include practice under the direction of a naturopathic doctor, as specified.

In 2023 the Board will be promulgating regulations to further clarify the rights and responsibilities of LVNs who choose to work under the direction of naturopathic doctors. To receive updates and information on the Board's progress in drafting these regulations, please subscribe to e-mail updates by selecting "Legislative and Regulation Updates" on the Board's website at:
<https://www.bvnpt.ca.gov/webapplications/apps/subscribe/index.shtml>

The Board strongly encourages both naturopathic doctors and licensed vocational nurses to carefully study the provisions of the bill, and offer their scope of practice questions and comments to the Board at:

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