

**SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY
NRS 233B.0608**

LCB File No. R106-25

1. A description of the manner in which comment was solicited from affected small businesses, a summary of their response and an explanation of the manner in which other interested persons may obtain a copy of the summary.

This regulation is necessary to properly reference and incorporate existing restrictions on any homeopathic physician who is not licensed as an allopathic or osteopathic physician or otherwise authorized by the Board to possess, administer, prescribe and dispense a controlled substance or dangerous drug, to better ensure public safety, regulatory consistency and compliance.

The Board, through its executive staff and legal counsel, have carefully examined the proposed amendment and have determined that it is not likely to (1) “impose a direct and significant economic burden upon small business,” or (2) “[d]irectly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of small businesses.”

The Board solicited comment on the proposed amendment by (1) posting notice, with links to the full text of the proposed amendment, to the LCB Administrative Regulation Notices webpage, (2) posting a copy of the full text of the proposed changes to the Board’s website as part of the Board Hearing materials, (3) posting notice to the Nevada Public Notice website, operated by the Department of Administration, with a link back to a full text of the proposed amendment on the Board’s website, and (4) posting notices and agendas in numerous public locations per NRS Chapter 233B.

The Board also solicited comment from Nevada dispensing practitioners, and from representatives of relevant industry associations that Board Staff deemed likely to have an interest in the proposed amendment. The Board also provided time for public comment at the workshop(s) concerning the proposed amendment.

- Dr. Michael Gerber, Homeopathic Medical Doctor, urges the Nevada Pharmacy Board to delay its vote on proposed regulations that would remove prescribing authority from singly licensed homeopathic physicians. He argues the change is unnecessary, lacks safety justification, would disrupt long-standing patient care, and could impose over \$1.5 million in costs on roughly 3,000 patients.
- Mary Linde, a patient of Dr. Gerber, opposes the proposed regulation. She argues it would create economic harm, exceed the Board’s jurisdiction by affecting open-market competition, and eliminate access to the only two homeopathic physicians authorized under existing NAC provisions. She notes the regulation vaguely refers to “dangerous drugs” without specifying which ones, despite no history of adverse outcomes under current licensure. She believes the proposal would unnecessarily disrupt care for tens of thousands of patients and goes beyond the Board’s proper scope.

- Renee Burch appreciates the Board’s oversight but asks that consumers be allowed to choose their preferred medical care. She explains that she could not get a hormonal-care appointment with a conventional doctor for eighteen months, but her homeopathic physicians were able to see her promptly and provide the care she needed.

Parties interested in obtaining a copy of the summary of the comments solicited should contact Board Coordination at teamBC@pharmacy.nv.gov or call Darlene Nases at (775) 850-1440 ext. 120.

2. The manner in which the analysis was conducted.

Board Staff analyzed the regulation to determine whether it could perceive a direct and significant economic burden on pharmacies, which are the businesses most likely to be affected by the regulation. It also analyzed whether the proposed regulation would restrict the formation, operation or expansion of such small businesses. Board Staff solicited public and industry comment as described in Question #1 above to inform its analysis, but the comments received could not be perceived or analyzed to have direct and/or significant economic burden on pharmacies.

3. The estimated economic effect of the proposed regulation on the small businesses which it is to regulate, including, without limitation:

(a) Both adverse and beneficial effects; and

There should be no adverse economic impact from this regulation amendment on the regulated entities or on the public since the regulation amendment references and incorporates existing restrictions on any homeopathic physician who is not licensed as an allopathic or osteopathic physician or otherwise authorized by the Board to possess, administer, prescribe and dispense a controlled substance or dangerous drug. The regulation amendment will have a beneficial effect by enhancing public safety by ensuring that any homeopathic physician who is not licensed as an allopathic or osteopathic physician or otherwise authorized by the Board to possess, administer, prescribe and dispense a controlled substance or dangerous drug only does so in conformance with the practice of homeopathic medicine and in the dosages authorized by the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States.

(b) Both direct and indirect effects.

There should be no direct or indirect economic effects on regulated entities and on the public since the regulation amendment references and incorporates existing restrictions on any homeopathic physician who is not licensed as an allopathic or osteopathic physician or otherwise authorized by the Board to possess, administer, prescribe and dispense a controlled substance or dangerous drug, to better ensure public safety, regulatory consistency and compliance.

4. A description of the methods that the agency considered to reduce the impact of the proposed regulation on small businesses and a statement regarding whether the agency actually used any of those methods.

The Board anticipates no significant adverse economic impact from R106-25 on legitimate Nevada businesses, so no alternative methods of regulation are deemed necessary.

5. The estimated cost to the agency for enforcement of the proposed regulation.

There will be no additional or special costs incurred by the Board of Pharmacy for enforcement of this regulation amendment.

6. If the proposed regulation provides a new fee or increases an existing fee, the total annual amount the agency expects to collect and the manner in which the money will be used.

This regulation does not provide a new or increase of fees.

7. If the proposed regulation includes provisions which duplicate or are more stringent than federal, state or local standards regulating the same activity, an explanation of why such duplicative or more stringent provisions are necessary.

The regulation does not include provisions which duplicate or are more stringent than federal, state or local standards regulating the same activity.

8. The reasons for the conclusion of the agency regarding the impact of a regulation on small businesses.

In its analysis of the regulation, the Board did not perceive, and found no evidence of, a direct and significant economic burden on small businesses. It also found no evidence that the proposed regulation would restrict the formation, operation or expansion of such small businesses. Board Staff solicited public and industry comment as described in Question #1 above to inform its analysis, and the comments received could not be perceived or analyzed to have direct and/or significant economic burden on pharmacies.

9. The methods used by the agency in determining the impact of the regulation on small business and the reasons for the agency's conclusions.

The Board, through its executive staff and legal counsel, carefully examined the regulation and determined that it is not likely to (1) "impose a direct and significant economic burden upon small business," or (2) "[d]irectly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of small businesses."

In reaching that conclusion, the Board solicited comment on the regulation by (1) posting notice, with a link to the full text of the proposed amendment, to the LCB Administrative Regulation Notices webpage, (2) posting a copy of the full text of the proposed changes to the Board's website as part of the Board Hearing materials, (3) posting notice to the Nevada Public Notice website, operated by the Department of Administration, with a link back to a full text of the proposed amendment on the Board's website, and (4) posting notices and agendas in numerous public locations per NRS Chapter 233B.

In its analysis of the regulation, the Board did not perceive, and found no evidence of, a direct and significant economic burden on small business. It also found no evidence that the proposed regulation would restrict the formation, operation or expansion of such small businesses. Absent any evidence, the Board concluded that no such impacts are likely to exist.

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge or belief a concerted effort was made to determine the impact of this proposed regulation on small businesses and that the information contained in the statement was prepared properly and is accurate.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. David Wuest", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. David Wuest, R.Ph.
Executive Secretary
Nevada State Board of Pharmacy