
SENATE BILL 6054

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By Senators L. Smith, Bauer, Johnson, Murray, von Reichbauer, Snyder, Metcalf, Conner, Thorsness, Vognild, Sutherland, Jesernig, M. Kreidler and Pelz

Read first time 01/13/92. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to chiropractic; amending RCW 18.25.005 and
2 18.25.006; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.25.005 and 1974 ex.s. c 97 s 7 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (~~For the purpose of chapters 18.25 and 18.26 RCW, the term~~
7 ~~"chiropractic" shall mean and include that practice of health care~~
8 ~~which deals with the detection of subluxations, which shall be defined~~
9 ~~as any alteration of the biomechanical and physiological dynamics of~~
10 ~~contiguous spinal structures which can cause neuronal disturbances, the~~
11 ~~chiropractic procedure preparatory to, and complementary to the~~
12 ~~correction thereof, by adjustment or manipulation of the articulations~~
13 ~~of the vertebral column and its immediate articulations for the~~
14 ~~restoration and maintenance of health; it includes the normal regimen~~

1 and rehabilitation of the patient, physical examination to determine
2 the necessity for chiropractic care, the use of x ray and other
3 analytical instruments generally used in the practice of chiropractic:
4 PROVIDED, That no chiropractor shall prescribe or dispense any medicine
5 or drug nor practice obstetrics or surgery nor use x rays for
6 therapeutic purposes: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the term "chiropractic"
7 as defined in this act shall not prohibit a practitioner licensed under
8 chapter 18.71 RCW from performing accepted medical procedures, except
9 such procedures shall not include the adjustment by hand of any
10 articulation of the spine: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing herein
11 shall be construed to prohibit the rendering of dietary advice.))

12 (1) Chiropractic is the practice of health care that deals with the
13 diagnosis or analysis and care or treatment of the vertebral
14 subluxation complex and its effects, articular dysfunction, and
15 musculoskeletal disorders, all for the restoration and maintenance of
16 health and recognizing the recuperative powers of the body.

17 (2) Chiropractic treatment or care includes the use of procedures
18 involving spinal adjustments, extremity manipulation, heat, cold,
19 water, exercise, massage, trigger point therapy, dietary advice and
20 recommendation of nutritional supplementation, the normal regimen and
21 rehabilitation of the patient, first aid, and counseling on hygiene,
22 sanitation, and preventive measures. Chiropractic care also includes
23 such physiological therapeutic procedures as traction and light, but
24 does not include procedures involving the application of sound,
25 diathermy, or electricity.

26 (3) As part of a chiropractic differential diagnosis, a
27 chiropractor shall perform a physical examination, which may include
28 diagnostic x-rays, to determine the appropriateness of chiropractic
29 care or the need for referral to other health care providers. The
30 chiropractic disciplinary board shall provide by rule for the type and

1 use of diagnostic and analytical devices and procedures consistent with
2 this chapter.

3 (4) Chiropractic care shall not include the prescription or
4 dispensing of any medicine or drug, the practice of obstetrics or
5 surgery, the use of x-rays or any other form of radiation for
6 therapeutic purposes, colonic irrigation, or any form of venipuncture.

7 (5) Nothing in this chapter prohibits or restricts any other
8 practitioner of a "health profession" defined in RCW 18.120.020(4) from
9 performing any functions or procedures the practitioner is licensed or
10 permitted to perform, and the term "chiropractic" as defined in this
11 chapter shall not prohibit a practitioner licensed under chapter 18.71
12 RCW from performing medical procedures, except such procedures shall
13 not include the adjustment by hand of any articulation of the spine.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.25.006 and 1991 c 3 s 36 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
17 this section apply throughout this chapter.

18 (1) "Department" means the department of health.

19 (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of health or
20 the secretary's designee.

21 (3) "Chiropractor" means an individual licensed under this chapter.

22 (4) "Board" means the Washington state board of chiropractic
23 examiners.

24 (5) "Vertebral subluxation complex" means a functional defect or
25 alteration of the biomechanical and physiological dynamics in a joint
26 that may cause neuronal disturbances, with or without displacement
27 detectable by x-ray. The effects of the vertebral subluxation complex
28 may include, but are not limited to, any of the following: Fixation,

1 hypomobility, hypermobility, periarticular muscle spasm, edema, or
2 inflammation.

3 (6) "Articular dysfunction" means an alteration of the
4 biomechanical and physiological dynamics of a joint of the axial or
5 appendicular skeleton.

6 (7) "Musculoskeletal disorders" means abnormalities of the muscles,
7 bones, and connective tissue.

8 (8) "Chiropractic differential diagnosis" means a diagnosis to
9 determine the existence of a vertebral subluxation complex, articular
10 dysfunction, or musculoskeletal disorder, and the appropriateness of
11 chiropractic care or the need for referral to other health care
12 providers.

13 (9) "Chiropractic adjustment" means chiropractic care of a
14 vertebral subluxation complex, articular dysfunction, or
15 musculoskeletal disorder. Such care includes manual or mechanical
16 adjustment of any vertebral articulation and contiguous articulations
17 beyond the normal passive physiological range of motion.

18 (10) "Extremity manipulation" means a corrective thrust or maneuver
19 applied to a joint of the appendicular skeleton. The use of extremity
20 manipulation is complementary and preparatory to a chiropractic spinal
21 adjustment to support correction of a vertebral subluxation complex.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
25 effect immediately.