
HOUSE BILL 1629

State of Washington

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By Representatives Prentice, Wood, R. Meyers, Franklin, Day, Miller, Ludwig, Morris, Pruitt, Brough, Braddock, Anderson, Betrozoff, Cooper, Fuhrman, R. King, McLean, Cantwell, Leonard, Kremen, Nealey, Phillips, P. Johnson, Wynne and Dorn.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to chiropractic; amending RCW 18.25.005, 18.25.040,
2 and 18.25.090; adding a new section to chapter 18.25 RCW; and declaring
3 an emergency.

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

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

7 ~~((For the purpose of chapters 18.25 and 18.26 RCW, the term
8 "chiropractic" shall mean and include that practice of health care
9 which deals with the detection of subluxations, which shall be defined
10 as any alteration of the biomechanical and physiological dynamics of
11 contiguous spinal structures which can cause neuronal disturbances, the
12 chiropractic procedure preparatory to, and complementary to the
13 correction thereof, by adjustment or manipulation of the articulations
14 of the vertebral column and its immediate articulations for the
15 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)(a) "Chiropractic" means an alternative primary health care practice
13 that detects, cares for, and manages the vertebral subluxation complex,
14 articular disfunction, and neuromusculoskeletal disorders for the
15 restoration and maintenance of health. As a health profession,
16 chiropractic is a science, art, and philosophy that deals with health
17 and disease in persons who choose to be treated by chiropractors,
18 whether as the initial health care provider or as the result of
19 referral from other health care providers.

20 (b) An "alterative primary health care practice" means a point of
21 entry into the health care system and a coordinating and referral point
22 to other providers, as appropriate.

23 (c) "Vertebral subluxation complex" means a functional defect or an
24 alteration of the biomechanical and physiological dynamics in a joint,
25 with or without displacement detectable by x-ray, that may include, but
26 is not limited to, any of the following: Fixation, hypomobility,
27 hypermobility, periarticular muscle spasm, edema, or inflammation. The
28 defect or alteration may cause neuronal disturbances, somatic
29 dysfunction, and direct or reflex functional changes in remote tissues.

1 (d) "Articular dysfunction" is an alteration of the biomechanical
2 and physiological dynamics of the joints of the axial or appendicular
3 skeleton.

4 (2)(a) "Chiropractic care" means chiropractic adjustment and other
5 manipulative procedures to manage a vertebral subluxation complex and
6 relieve aberrations of the neuromusculoskeletal system that may cause
7 neuronal disturbances. Such care may include the manipulation or
8 mobilization of extremities insofar as any such procedure is
9 complementary or preparatory to a chiropractic spinal adjustment. It
10 includes consultation, examination, analysis, diagnosis, and treatment.

11 (b) A "chiropractic differential diagnosis" is a diagnosis to
12 determine: The existence of a vertebral subluxation complex, articular
13 dysfunction, or neuromusculoskeletal disorder; the appropriateness of
14 chiropractic care; and the need for referral to other health care
15 providers.

16 (c) "Examination, analysis, and diagnosis" includes the use of
17 physical, clinical, thermal, laboratory, x-ray, or other generally
18 accepted diagnostic analytical methods and devices. The extent and
19 necessity of analytical and diagnostic tests must be based upon
20 objective findings, progress of the patient, and the professional
21 judgment of the chiropractor.

22 (d) A "chiropractic adjustment" means chiropractic care of a
23 vertebral subluxation complex, articular dysfunction, or
24 neuromusculoskeletal disorder. Such care includes manual or mechanical
25 adjustment of any vertebral articulation beyond the normal passive
26 physiological range of motion.

27 (e) "Chiropractic treatment" includes the use of procedures
28 involving heat, cold, water, and exercise, and such physiological
29 therapeutic procedures and instruments as traction and light, but does

1 not include procedures involving the application of sound, diathermy,
2 or electricity.

3 (3) Chiropractic care may include the provision of dietary advice
4 and recommendation of nutritional supplementation for the restoration
5 and maintenance of health. Such care may also include the normal
6 regimen and rehabilitation of the patient, first aid, and counseling on
7 hygiene, sanitation, and preventive measures.

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

12 (5) Nothing in this chapter prohibits or restricts any practitioner
13 of a health profession defined in RCW 18.120.020(4) from performing a
14 function or procedure the practitioner is licensed or permitted to
15 perform under this title, and the term chiropractic as defined in this
16 section shall not prohibit a practitioner licensed under chapter 18.71
17 RCW from performing accepted medical procedures, except such procedures
18 shall not include the adjustment by hand of any articulation of the
19 spine.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.25.040 and 1985 c 7 s 15 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 Persons licensed to practice chiropractic under the laws of any
23 other state, territory of the United States, the District of Columbia,
24 Puerto Rico, or province of Canada, having ((equal requirements of))
25 qualifications substantially equivalent to those required by this
26 chapter, may, in the discretion of the board of chiropractic examiners,
27 and after such examination ((by the board in principles of
28 chiropractic, x ray, and adjusting, as taught by chiropractic schools
29 and colleges)) as may be required by rule of the board, be issued a

1 license to practice in this state without further examination, upon
2 payment of a fee determined by the director as provided in RCW
3 43.24.086, provided that the state or territory from where the person
4 came extends substantially reciprocal treatment to licensees of this
5 state.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.25.090 and 1989 c 258 s 6 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 On all cards, books, papers, signs or other written or printed
9 means of giving information to the public, used by those licensed by
10 this chapter to practice chiropractic, the practitioner shall use after
11 or below his or her name the term chiropractor, chiropractic physician,
12 D.C., or D.C.Ph.C., designating his or her line of drugless practice,
13 and shall not use the letters M.D. or D.O.: PROVIDED, That the word
14 doctor or "Dr." or physician may be used only in conjunction with the
15 word "chiropractic" or "chiropractor". Nothing in this chapter shall
16 be held to apply to or to regulate any kind of treatment by prayer.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.25 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit:

20 (1) The temporary practice in this state of chiropractic by any
21 chiropractor licensed by another state, territory, or country in which
22 he or she resides. However, the chiropractor shall not establish a
23 practice open to the general public and shall not engage in temporary
24 practice under this section for a period longer than thirty days. The
25 chiropractor shall register his or her intention to engage in the
26 temporary practice of chiropractic in this state with the board of
27 chiropractic examiners before engaging in the practice of chiropractic,

1 and shall agree to be bound by such conditions as may be prescribed by
2 rule by the board;

3 (2) The practice of chiropractic, except the administration of a
4 chiropractic adjustment, by a person who is a regular senior student in
5 an accredited school of chiropractic approved by the board if the
6 practice is part of a regular course of instruction offered by the
7 school and the student is under the direct supervision and control of
8 a chiropractor duly licensed pursuant to this chapter and approved by
9 the board;

10 (3) The practice of chiropractic by a person serving a period of
11 postgraduate chiropractic training in a program of clinical
12 chiropractic training sponsored by a school of chiropractic accredited
13 in this state if the practice is part of his or her duties as a
14 clinical postgraduate trainee and the trainee is under the direct
15 supervision and control of a chiropractor duly licensed pursuant to
16 this chapter and approved by the board;

17 (4) The practice of chiropractic by a person who is eligible and
18 has applied to take the next available examination for licensing
19 offered by the board of chiropractic examiners, except that the
20 unlicensed chiropractor must provide all services under the direct
21 control and supervision of a licensed chiropractor approved by the
22 board. The unlicensed chiropractor may continue to practice as
23 provided by this subsection until the results of the next available
24 examination are published, but in no case for a period longer than six
25 months. The board shall adopt rules necessary to effectuate the intent
26 of this subsection.

27 Any provision of chiropractic services by any individual under
28 subsection (1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section shall be subject to
29 the jurisdiction of the chiropractic disciplinary board as provided in
30 chapters 18.26 and 18.130 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
4 effect immediately.