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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6054

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State of Washington

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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 18.25.025 and  
2 18.25.006; adding a new section to chapter 18.25 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act is intended to expand the scope  
6 of practice of chiropractic only with regard to adjustment of  
7 extremities in connection with a spinal adjustment.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.25.005 and 1974 ex.s. c 97 s 7 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (~~For the purpose of chapters 18.25 and 18.26 RCW, the term~~  
11 ~~"chiropractic" shall mean and include that practice of health care~~  
12 ~~which deals with the detection of subluxations, which shall be defined~~  
13 ~~as any alteration of the biomechanical and physiological dynamics of~~

1 contiguous spinal structures which can cause neuronal disturbances, the  
2 chiropractic procedure preparatory to, and complementary to the  
3 correction thereof, by adjustment or manipulation of the articulations  
4 of the vertebral column and its immediate articulations for the  
5 restoration and maintenance of health; it includes the normal regimen  
6 and rehabilitation of the patient, physical examination to determine  
7 the necessity for chiropractic care, the use of x ray and other  
8 analytical instruments generally used in the practice of chiropractic:  
9 PROVIDED, That no chiropractor shall prescribe or dispense any medicine  
10 or drug nor practice obstetrics or surgery nor use x rays for  
11 therapeutic purposes: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the term "chiropractic"  
12 as defined in this act shall not prohibit a practitioner licensed under  
13 chapter 18.71 RCW from performing accepted medical procedures, except  
14 such procedures shall not include the adjustment by hand of any  
15 articulation of the spine: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing herein  
16 shall be construed to prohibit the rendering of dietary advice.))

17 (1) Chiropractic is the practice of health care that deals with the  
18 diagnosis or analysis and care or treatment of the vertebral  
19 subluxation complex and its effects, articular dysfunction, and  
20 musculoskeletal disorders, all for the restoration and maintenance of  
21 health and recognizing the recuperative powers of the body.

22 (2) Chiropractic treatment or care includes the use of procedures  
23 involving spinal adjustments, and extremity manipulation insofar as any  
24 such procedure is complementary or preparatory to a chiropractic spinal  
25 adjustment. Chiropractic treatment also includes the use of heat,  
26 cold, water, exercise, massage, trigger point therapy, dietary advice  
27 and recommendation of nutritional supplementation except for medicines  
28 of herbal, animal, or botanical origin, the normal regimen and  
29 rehabilitation of the patient, first aid, and counseling on hygiene,  
30 sanitation, and preventive measures. Chiropractic care also includes

1 such physiological therapeutic procedures as traction and light, but  
2 does not include procedures involving the application of sound,  
3 diathermy, or electricity.

4 (3) As part of a chiropractic differential diagnosis, a  
5 chiropractor shall perform a physical examination, which may include  
6 diagnostic x-rays, to determine the appropriateness of chiropractic  
7 care or the need for referral to other health care providers. The  
8 chiropractic disciplinary board shall provide by rule for the type and  
9 use of diagnostic and analytical devices and procedures consistent with  
10 this chapter.

11 (4) Chiropractic care shall not include the prescription or  
12 dispensing of any medicine or drug, the practice of obstetrics or  
13 surgery, the use of x-rays or any other form of radiation for  
14 therapeutic purposes, colonic irrigation, or any form of venipuncture.  
15 In addition, chiropractic care shall not include the diagnosis or  
16 treatment of any infectious or communicable disease, malignant or  
17 benign neoplasm, any cardiovascular, pulmonary, hematologic, lymphatic,  
18 metabolic, endocrine, immunologic, hepatic, renal, or other medical  
19 disease. Chiropractic care also does not include the treatment of  
20 fractures.

21 (5) Nothing in this chapter prohibits or restricts any other  
22 practitioner of a "health profession" defined in RCW 18.120.020(4) from  
23 performing any functions or procedures the practitioner is licensed or  
24 permitted to perform, and the term "chiropractic" as defined in this  
25 chapter shall not prohibit a practitioner licensed under chapter 18.71  
26 RCW from performing medical procedures, except such procedures shall  
27 not include the adjustment by hand of any articulation of the spine.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.25.006 and 1991 c 3 s 36 are each amended to read  
29 as follows:

1 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
2 this section apply throughout this chapter.

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

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

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

7 (4) "Board" means the Washington state board of chiropractic  
8 examiners.

9 (5) "Vertebral subluxation complex" means a functional defect or  
10 alteration of the biomechanical and physiological dynamics in a joint  
11 that may cause neuronal disturbances, with or without displacement  
12 detectable by x-ray. The effects of the vertebral subluxation complex  
13 may include, but are not limited to, any of the following: Fixation,  
14 hypomobility, hypermobility, periarticular muscle spasm, edema, or  
15 inflammation.

16 (6) "Articular dysfunction" means an alteration of the  
17 biomechanical and physiological dynamics of a joint of the axial or  
18 appendicular skeleton.

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

21 (8) "Chiropractic differential diagnosis" means a diagnosis to  
22 determine the existence of a vertebral subluxation complex, articular  
23 dysfunction, or musculoskeletal disorder, and the appropriateness of  
24 chiropractic care or the need for referral to other health care  
25 providers.

26 (9) "Chiropractic adjustment" means chiropractic care of a  
27 vertebral subluxation complex, articular dysfunction, or  
28 musculoskeletal disorder. Such care includes manual or mechanical  
29 adjustment of any vertebral articulation and contiguous articulations  
30 beyond the normal passive physiological range of motion.

1       (10) "Extremity manipulation" means a corrective thrust or maneuver  
2 applied to a joint of the appendicular skeleton. The use of extremity  
3 manipulation shall be complementary and preparatory to a chiropractic  
4 spinal adjustment to support correction of a vertebral subluxation  
5 complex and is considered a part of a spinal adjustment and shall not  
6 be billed separately from or in addition to a spinal adjustment.

7       NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 18.25 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9       All state health care purchasers shall have the authority to set  
10 service and fee limitations on chiropractic costs. The health care  
11 authority shall establish pilot projects in defined geographic regions  
12 of the state to contract with organizations of chiropractors for a  
13 prepaid capitated amount.

14       NEW SECTION. Sec. 5.       This act is necessary for the immediate  
15 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
16 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
17 effect immediately.