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SENATE BILL 6454

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State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Prentice and Kastama

Read first time 01/17/2002. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to chiropractic care; and amending RCW 18.25.005  
2 and 18.25.006.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.25.005 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 102 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Chiropractic is the practice of health care that deals with the  
7 diagnosis or analysis and care or treatment of the vertebral  
8 subluxation complex and its effects, articular dysfunction, and  
9 musculoskeletal disorders, all for the restoration and maintenance of  
10 health and recognizing the recuperative powers of the body.

11 (2) Chiropractic treatment or care includes the use of procedures  
12 involving spinal adjustments, and extremity manipulation insofar as any  
13 such procedure is complementary or preparatory to a chiropractic spinal  
14 adjustment. Chiropractic treatment also includes the use of heat,  
15 cold, water, exercise, massage, trigger point therapy, dietary advice  
16 and recommendation of nutritional supplementation (~~except for~~  
17 ~~medicines of herbal, animal, or botanical origin~~)), the normal regimen  
18 and rehabilitation of the patient, first aid, and counseling on  
19 hygiene, sanitation, and preventive measures. Chiropractic care also

1 includes such physiological therapeutic procedures as traction and  
2 light, but does not include procedures involving the application of  
3 sound, 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 quality assurance commission shall provide by rule for the  
9 type and use of diagnostic and analytical devices and procedures  
10 consistent with 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 (5) Nothing in this chapter prohibits or restricts any other  
16 practitioner of a "health profession" defined in RCW 18.120.020(4) from  
17 performing any functions or procedures the practitioner is licensed or  
18 permitted to perform, and the term "chiropractic" as defined in this  
19 chapter shall not prohibit a practitioner licensed under chapter 18.71  
20 RCW from performing medical procedures, except such procedures shall  
21 not include the adjustment by hand of any articulation of the spine.

22 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.25.006 and 1994 sp.s. c 9 s 103 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
25 this section apply throughout this chapter.

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

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

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

30 (4) "Commission" means the Washington state chiropractic quality  
31 assurance commission.

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

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

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

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

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

16 (10) "Extremity manipulation" means a corrective thrust or maneuver  
17 applied to a joint of the appendicular skeleton. ((The use of  
18 extremity manipulation shall be complementary and preparatory to a  
19 chiropractic spinal adjustment to support correction of a vertebral  
20 subluxation complex and is considered a part of a spinal adjustment and  
21 shall not be billed separately from or in addition to a spinal  
22 adjustment.))

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