
HOUSE BILL 2591

State of Washington

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By Representatives Appelwick, Fuhrman, Dorn, Anderson, Kessler, Schoesler, Brough, Chandler, Edmondson, Cooke, Long, Talcott, Stevens, B. Thomas, R. Meyers, Ogden, Scott, Jones, Moak, Kremen, Roland and King

Read first time 01/19/94. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to chiropractic; amending RCW 18.25.005; and adding
2 a new section to chapter 18.25 RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.25.005 and 1992 c 241 s 2 are each amended to read
5 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 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 (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 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.25 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 (1) A chiropractor is a primary care provider. As a primary care
25 provider, a chiropractor:

26 (a) Is a point of entry into the health care system for patients
27 who seek health care without being referred by another health care
28 provider and regardless of the nature of the health care problem; and

29 (b) Is responsible for evaluation of a patient's health by
30 conducting physical examinations and performing such tests as are
31 necessary, within the chiropractic scope of practice, to determine the
32 need for chiropractic treatment or referral to other health care
33 providers; and

34 (c) Coordinates or manages the health care of the patient by
35 appropriate chiropractic treatment, referral to other appropriate
36 providers, and provision of quality assurance of care; and

37 (d) Provides comprehensive and continuous preventive and
38 therapeutic care within the chiropractic scope of practice.

1 (2) Chiropractors shall be recognized to be primary care providers
2 so that an enrollee in a certified health plan under RCW 43.72.100 may
3 utilize the health care services of a chiropractor as the enrollee's
4 point of entry to health services in this state.

5 (3) In consultation with the health services commission, the
6 chiropractic disciplinary board shall provide rules to carry out the
7 intent of this section.

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