

SB 5899 - S AMD 559
By Senator Short

ADOPTED 02/17/2026

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.25
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Upon application, in a form and manner determined by the
6 commission, the commission shall issue an initial license endorsement
7 to practice animal chiropractic to a licensed chiropractor if the
8 chiropractor:

9 (a) Currently holds a valid Washington state chiropractic
10 license;

11 (b)(i) Provides proof of successful completion of an approved
12 animal chiropractic educational program within the previous two years
13 that includes a minimum of 210 curriculum hours; or

14 (ii) Provides proof the chiropractor holds a current animal
15 chiropractic certification; and

16 (c) Pays fees as required by RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

17 (2) An animal chiropractic endorsement issued pursuant to
18 subsection (1) of this section is valid for three years, at which
19 time a chiropractor may apply for an endorsement renewal in a form
20 and manner determined by the commission.

21 (3) An animal chiropractor is eligible for renewal of their
22 animal chiropractic license endorsement if the animal chiropractor:

23 (a) Provides proof of a current certification from an approved
24 animal chiropractic educational program and proof of a current animal
25 chiropractic license endorsement;

26 (b) Provides an attestation that the animal chiropractor has
27 completed all continuing education requirements as required in
28 subsection (4) of this section; and

29 (c) Pays fees as required by RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

30 (4) An animal chiropractor holding an endorsement issued pursuant
31 to subsection (1) of this section shall complete at least 30 hours
32 every three years of approved continuing education focused on animal
33 chiropractic.

1 (5) An animal chiropractor may practice animal chiropractic only
2 if:

3 (a) The animal patient has been referred to the animal
4 chiropractor in writing by a licensed veterinarian holding a license
5 in Washington state and who has personally examined the animal
6 receiving the animal chiropractic care before the animal chiropractic
7 is performed;

8 (b) The animal chiropractor assumes liability for the quality of
9 the animal chiropractic care performed; and

10 (c) The animal chiropractor has received training and education
11 related to the animal type of the animal patient.

12 (6) An animal chiropractor may not order magnetic, roentgen, or
13 sonographic imaging of animal patients. Animal chiropractors may
14 engage in animal chiropractic consistent with RCW 18.25.005,
15 including reviewing existing imaging reports of animal patients for
16 diagnostic purposes.

17 (7) An animal chiropractor shall encourage clients to seek
18 veterinary care for all nonchiropractic health issues.

19 (8) An animal chiropractor must maintain a separate written
20 medical record of each animal patient receiving animal chiropractic
21 care for at least five years. An animal chiropractor is required to
22 provide a written medical record of the animal patient receiving care
23 to the referring veterinarian within seven days of each visit by mail
24 or electronic transmission. The record must include, without
25 limitation:

26 (a) The name, address, and telephone number of the client;

27 (b) The name or identifying number, or both, of the animal
28 patient;

29 (c) The age, if known, sex, and breed of the animal patient;

30 (d) The dates of care, custody, or treatment of the animal
31 patient;

32 (e) The results of a basic physical examination related to the
33 animal chiropractic care provided to the animal patient;

34 (f) The diagnosis and treatment plan related to the animal
35 chiropractic care recommended by the animal chiropractor for the
36 animal patient; and

37 (g) The progress and disposition of the case.

38 (9)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, no person
39 shall engage in the practice of animal chiropractic, imply or
40 represent that they engage in the practice of animal chiropractic, or

1 offer or advertise animal chiropractic services unless they hold a
2 current animal chiropractic license endorsement issued pursuant to
3 this section. Only an animal chiropractor may advertise animal
4 chiropractic services to the public using such terms that include,
5 but are not limited to, animal chiropractor, animal chiropractic, and
6 animal chiropractic adjustments.

7 (b) A licensed chiropractor who is enrolled as a student in an
8 approved animal chiropractic educational program may practice animal
9 chiropractic as is required in the curriculum of the animal
10 chiropractic educational program.

11 (10)(a) Whenever a facility treats both animal and human patients
12 on the same clinical premises, appropriate signage must be posted on
13 the facility as established in rule by the commission.

14 (b) Any facility offering services to both animal patients and
15 human patients must observe all clinical and sanitary standards for
16 veterinary facilities and chiropractic facilities required in rule,
17 or as described in state law, or local ordinance.

18 (11) Any animal chiropractor lawfully licensed in this state to
19 practice animal chiropractic who reports, in good faith and in the
20 normal course of business, a suspected incident of animal cruelty
21 that is punishable under chapter 16.52 RCW to the proper authorities
22 is immune from liability in any civil or criminal action brought
23 against such animal chiropractor for reporting the suspected
24 incident. The immunity provided in this section applies only if the
25 animal chiropractor receives no financial benefit from the suspected
26 incident of animal cruelty beyond charges for services rendered prior
27 to the animal chiropractor making the initial report.

28 (12) An animal chiropractor providing animal chiropractic care to
29 an animal patient shall develop a protocol for notifying the
30 veterinarian of the animal patient in the event an animal patient
31 needs emergency care during a chiropractic appointment.

32 (13) An animal chiropractor is responsible and accountable for
33 services he or she provides to animal patients.

34 (14) The commission shall share information regarding complaints
35 or disciplinary action against an animal chiropractor with the
36 secretary and the veterinary board of governors quarterly.

37 (15) The commission may adopt any rules necessary to implement
38 this section.

39 (16) For the purposes of this section:

1 (a) "Animal chiropractic" means the practice of chiropractic on
2 nonhuman animals.

3 (b) "Animal chiropractic certification" means a current
4 certification issued by certification agencies identified by the
5 commission in rule.

6 (c) "Animal chiropractor" means a licensed chiropractor who holds
7 an animal chiropractic endorsement.

8 (d) "Animal patient" means the animal receiving the chiropractic
9 care.

10 (e) "Approved animal chiropractic educational program" means an
11 animal chiropractic training program approved by the commission in
12 rule.

13 (f) "Client" means the person presenting the animal patient for
14 chiropractic evaluation, care, and adjustments.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.25
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The commission and the veterinary board of governors shall
18 convene a joint task force on animal chiropractic for the purpose of
19 reviewing complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions
20 related to animal chiropractic care. Membership of the joint task
21 force shall be comprised of an equal number of representatives from
22 the commission and the veterinary board of governors.

23 (2) By October 30, 2030, the joint task force shall submit a
24 report to the governor and the legislature on the animal chiropractic
25 endorsement. The report shall include:

26 (a) The risks to public health, quality of care, or animal
27 welfare identified through complaints submitted to the commission,
28 investigations conducted by the commission, and disciplinary actions
29 taken by the commission related to animal chiropractic;

30 (b) An assessment of the incident of veterinary denials of
31 requests for referrals to chiropractors;

32 (c) A review of regulatory approaches to animal chiropractic in
33 other jurisdictions, including referral requirements and veterinary
34 supervision; and

35 (d) Recommendations for any changes to the rules or statutes
36 governing the animal chiropractic endorsement.

37 (3) This section expires July 1, 2031.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.92
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The board shall participate in a joint task force on animal
4 chiropractic created in section 2 of this act for the purpose of
5 reviewing complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions
6 related to animal chiropractic care. Membership of the joint task
7 force shall be comprised of an equal number of representatives from
8 the board and the chiropractic quality assurance commission.

9 (2) By October 30, 2030, the joint task force shall submit a
10 report to the governor and the legislature on the animal chiropractic
11 endorsement. The report shall include:

12 (a) The risks to public health, quality of care, or animal
13 welfare identified through complaints submitted to the chiropractic
14 quality assurance commission, investigations conducted by the
15 commission, and disciplinary actions taken by the commission related
16 to animal chiropractic;

17 (b) An assessment of the incident of veterinary denials of
18 requests for referrals to chiropractors;

19 (c) A review of regulatory approaches to animal chiropractic in
20 other jurisdictions, including referral requirements and veterinary
21 supervision; and

22 (d) Recommendations for any changes to the rules or statutes
23 governing the animal chiropractic endorsement.

24 (3) This section expires July 1, 2031.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.92
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) A veterinarian who refers an animal patient to an animal
28 chiropractor shall include the copy of the medical record received
29 pursuant to section 1(8) of this act as part of the medical record of
30 the animal patient.

31 (2) A veterinarian who refers an animal patient to an animal
32 chiropractor is not:

33 (a) Required to supervise the animal chiropractor during the
34 provision of animal chiropractic care; and

35 (b) Liable for the animal chiropractic care provided to the
36 animal patient by an animal chiropractor.

37 (3) Within 14 days of denying an animal patient a referral for
38 animal chiropractic care, a veterinarian shall provide the animal

1 chiropractor and the client the contraindications of why the referral
2 for animal chiropractor care was denied.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect July 1, 2027."

SB 5899 - S AMD 559
By Senator Short

ADOPTED 02/17/2026

4 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "animals;" strike the
5 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter
6 18.25 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 18.92 RCW; providing an
7 effective date; and providing expiration dates."

EFFECT: Establishes requirements that an animal chiropractor must meet prior to providing animal chiropractic care. Directs an animal chiropractor to maintain and share medical records with an animal patient's veterinarian. Requires an animal chiropractor to develop a protocol for notifying an animal patient's veterinarian of an emergency during a chiropractic appointment. Creates a joint task force of members from the chiropractic quality assurance commission and the veterinary board of governors and directs the joint task force to submit a report on specific items to the governor and legislature by October 30, 2030. Requires a veterinarian who refers an animal patient to an animal chiropractor to include a copy of the medical record received pursuant to this act as part of the medical record of the animal patient. Clarifies that a veterinarian who refers an animal patient to an animal chiropractor does not need to supervise the animal chiropractor during the provision of animal chiropractic care and is not liable for the animal chiropractic care provided by the animal chiropractor. Requires a veterinarian, within 14 days of denying a referral, to provide the animal chiropractor and the client of an animal patient the contraindications of why the referral for animal chiropractic care was denied. Creates an effective date of July 1, 2027.

--- END ---