
SENATE BILL 5899

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Short, Lias, Dozier, Lovelett, and Riccelli

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1 AN ACT Relating to creating a license endorsement to allow
2 qualified licensed chiropractors to perform chiropractic diagnosis
3 and adjustments on nonhuman animals; and adding a new section to
4 chapter 18.25 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.25
7 RCW to read as follows:

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

12 (a) Currently holds a valid Washington state chiropractic
13 license;

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

17 (ii) Provides proof the chiropractor holds a current animal
18 chiropractic certification; and

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

20 (2) An animal chiropractic endorsement issued pursuant to
21 subsection (1) of this section is valid for three years, at which

1 time a chiropractor may apply for an endorsement renewal in a form
2 and manner determined by the commission.

3 (3) A chiropractor is eligible for renewal of their animal
4 chiropractic license endorsement if the chiropractor:

5 (a) Provides proof of a current animal chiropractic license
6 endorsement and an attestation that the chiropractor has completed
7 all continuing education requirements as required in subsection (4)
8 of this section; and

9 (b) Pays fees as required by RCW 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

10 (4) Each person holding a license endorsement issued pursuant to
11 this section shall complete at least 30 hours every three years of
12 approved continuing education focused on animal chiropractic.

13 (5) A licensee practicing animal chiropractic:

14 (a) May review existing imaging and imaging reports of animal
15 patients for diagnostic purposes, but may not order or obtain
16 magnetic, roentgen, or sonographic imaging of animal patients;

17 (b) May provide care to correct subluxation of the spine and
18 extremities and modalities consistent with animal chiropractic
19 training and certification; and

20 (c) Shall encourage clients to seek veterinary care for all
21 nonchiropractic health issues.

22 (6) A licensee practicing animal chiropractic must maintain all
23 necessary patient records and documentation as required by RCW
24 70.02.080 and the commission in rule, and upon request provide those
25 records to the client or veterinarian designated by the client.

26 (7)(a) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, no person
27 shall engage in the practice of animal chiropractic, imply or
28 represent that they engage in the practice of animal chiropractic, or
29 offer or advertise animal chiropractic services unless they hold a
30 current animal chiropractic license endorsement issued pursuant to
31 this section.

32 (b) Only a licensed chiropractor that holds a current animal
33 chiropractic license endorsement may advertise animal chiropractic
34 services to the public using such terms that include, but are not
35 limited to, animal chiropractor, animal chiropractic, and animal
36 chiropractic adjustments.

37 (c) A licensed chiropractor who is enrolled as a student in an
38 approved animal chiropractic educational program may practice animal
39 chiropractic as is required in the curriculum of the animal
40 chiropractic educational program.

1 (8) (a) Whenever a facility treats both animal and human patients
2 on the same clinical premises, appropriate signage must be posted on
3 the facility as established in rule by the commission.

4 (b) Any facility offering services to both animal patients and
5 human patients must observe all clinical and sanitary standards
6 required in rule, state law, or local ordinance.

7 (9) Any animal chiropractor lawfully licensed in this state to
8 practice animal chiropractic services who reports, in good faith and
9 in the normal course of business, a suspected incident of animal
10 cruelty that is punishable under chapter 16.52 RCW to the proper
11 authorities is immune from liability in any civil or criminal action
12 brought against such animal chiropractor for reporting the suspected
13 incident. The immunity provided in this section applies only if the
14 animal chiropractor receives no financial benefit from the suspected
15 incident of animal cruelty beyond charges for services rendered prior
16 to the animal chiropractor making the initial report.

17 (10) An animal chiropractor must maintain the address and contact
18 information for the closest veterinarian or emergency animal clinic
19 or both to be given to a client should an animal patient need
20 emergency care during a chiropractic appointment.

21 (11) An animal chiropractor is responsible and accountable for
22 services he or she renders to animal patients.

23 (12) The commission shall share information regarding complaints
24 or disciplinary action against an animal chiropractor with the
25 secretary and the veterinary board of governors annually.

26 (13) The commission may adopt any rules necessary to implement
27 this section.

28 (14) For the purposes of this section:

29 (a) "Animal chiropractic" means the practice of chiropractic on
30 nonhuman animals.

31 (b) "Animal chiropractic certification" means a current
32 certification issued by the American veterinary chiropractic
33 association, the international veterinary chiropractic association,
34 or substantially equivalent entity identified by the commission in
35 rule.

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

38 (d) "Animal patient" means the animal receiving the chiropractic
39 care.

1 (e) "Approved animal chiropractic educational program" means an
2 animal chiropractic training program approved by the American
3 veterinary chiropractic association or the international veterinary
4 chiropractic association, or substantially equivalent entity
5 identified by the commission in rule.

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

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