
The original instrument was prepared by Christopher D. Adams. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Cathy R. Wells.

SB 56 Reengrossed

DIGEST
2015 Regular Session

Dorsey-Colomb

Present law defines "practice of chiropractic" to mean holding one's self out to the public as a chiropractor and as being engaged in the business of, or the actual engagement in, the diagnosing of conditions associated with the functional integrity of the spine and treating by adjustment, manipulation, and the use of the physical and other properties of heat, light, water, electricity, sound, massage, therapeutic exercise, mobilization, mechanical devices, and other physical rehabilitation measures for the purpose of correcting interference with normal nerve transmission and expression. A chiropractor may also make recommendations relative to personal hygiene and proper nutritional practices for the rehabilitation of the patient. A chiropractor may also order such diagnostic tests as are necessary for determining conditions associated with the functional integrity of the spine.

Proposed law amends present law definition of "practice of chiropractic" to mean holding one's self out to the public as a chiropractor and as being engaged in the business of, or the actual engagement in, the examining, evaluating, and diagnosing patients for the purpose of determining conditions related to the function of the neuromuscular or musculoskeletal system treating by adjustment, manipulation, and the use of the physical and other properties of heat, light, water, electricity, sound, massage, therapeutic exercise, mobilization, mechanical devices, and other physical rehabilitation measures.

Present law definition of "practice of chiropractic" includes while chiropractors may not directly perform or administer computerized axial tomography, nuclear magnetic resonance, and nuclear magnetic imaging, nothing shall be construed to prohibit a chiropractor from ordering such diagnostic procedures when deemed necessary by the practitioner. However, the authority to order such diagnostic tests shall not be construed so as to mandate coverage for such tests ordered by a chiropractor under any health care plan or policy of insurance, to require such coverage under any such plan or policy, or to circumvent any requirement or preauthorization for covered services by a primary care physician or precertification by an insurer or administrator of a plan or policy in accordance with the terms of a health care plan or policy.

Present law provides a chiropractor shall not order such tests or solicit an insurer or health care plan provider for coverage arrangements for such tests for the primary purpose of financial gain.

Proposed law amends present law definition of "practice of chiropractic" to include a chiropractor may counsel and instruct patients regarding health, wellness, diet, and nutrition. Further, a chiropractor may also order such diagnostic tests as are necessary for determining the patient's condition, and a chiropractor may also order, perform, and utilize x-ray procedures for the sole purpose of diagnosis.

Proposed law provides while chiropractors may not directly perform or administer computerized axial tomography, nuclear magnetic resonance, and nuclear magnetic imaging, nothing shall be construed to prohibit a chiropractor from ordering such diagnostic procedures when deemed necessary by the practitioner.

Present law provides the practice of chiropractic does not include the right to prescribe, dispense, or administer medicine or drugs, or to engage in the practice of major or minor surgery, obstetrics, X-ray therapy, radium therapy, or nuclear medicine.

Proposed law amends present law by adding the treating of fractures or total disruption of extremity to the list of the things the practice of chiropractic does not include.

Present law provides a chiropractor licensed under present law is entitled to utilize x-ray procedures for the sole purpose of chiropractic analysis. Such x-ray procedures shall be administered with efficient exposure techniques and optimal operation of radiation equipment in order to minimize the amount of and repetition of x-ray exposure to which a patient is subjected during such analysis. Present law provides such procedures shall not include radio-therapy, fluoroscopy, or any other form of ionizing radiation, except x-ray, which may be used only for the purpose of chiropractic analysis.

Proposed law removes this language and provides that a chiropractor may also order, perform, and utilize x-ray procedures for the sole purpose of diagnosis.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 37:2801(3) and 2817)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Clarifies the definition of the "practice of chiropractic".
2. Adds items to the list of items which the practice of chiropractic does not include.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Changes definition of the "practice of chiropractic" to include the examining, evaluating, and diagnosing patients for the purpose of determining conditions related to the function of the neuromuscular or musculoskeletal system.
2. Retains certain provisions of present law relative to the definition of the "practice of chiropractic".

3. Makes technical corrections.