



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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SCOPE OF CHIROPRACTIC

House Bill 4610
Sponsor: Rep. Susan Munsell
Committee: Health Policy

Complete to 8-18-95

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4610 AS INTRODUCED 3-16-95

The bill would amend the Public Health Code (Public Act 368 of 1978) to expand the code's definition of chiropractic scope of practice. Currently, the practice of chiropractic is defined as dealing with the nervous system and its relationship to the spinal column, including:

- * diagnosis to determine whether chiropractic treatment is appropriate,
- * adjustment of the spine,
- * the use of analytical instruments, nutritional advice, rehabilitative exercise, and
- * the use of x-ray machines to locate spinal subluxations or misaligned vertebrae.

Specific restrictions are imposed to prohibit incisive surgical procedures, performance of invasive procedures requiring instrumentation, or the dispensing or prescribing of drugs or medicine. The bill would retain these restrictions.

More specifically, the "practice of chiropractic" currently is defined as "that discipline within the healing arts which deals with the nervous system and its relationship to the spinal column and its relationship with other body systems." House Bill 4610 would change this definition to read "that discipline within the healing arts that deals with the nervous system and its relationship to the spinal column, with extremities, and with their interrelationship with other body systems." Currently, the practice of chiropractic explicitly includes:

(1) "Diagnosis, including spinal analysis" (the bill would add "and examination") to determine the necessity for chiropractic care. Indications of such a necessity are "the existence of spinal subluxations or misalignments that produce nerve interference". The bill would expand the indications for treatment to include "other human ailments."

(2) "The adjustment of spinal subluxations or misalignments and related bones and tissues for the establishment of neural integrity utilizing the inherent recuperative powers of the body for restoration and maintenance of health". The bill would change this subsection to read "The adjustment of subluxations or misalignments of bones and tissues" . . . for restoration and maintenance of health.

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(3) "The use of analytical instruments, nutritional advice, rehabilitative exercise and adjustment apparatus (the bill would add 'with or without assistive devices') regulated by rules promulgated by the board [of chiropractic] . . . , and the use of x-ray machines in the examination of patients for the purpose of locating spinal subluxations or misaligned vertebrae of the human spine." The bill would authorize the use of imaging technology and "by referral other tests" in the examination of patients. The phrase "for the purpose of locating spinal subluxations or misaligned vertebrae of the human spine" would be deleted.

The bill would specify that these aspects of the practice of chiropractic would be subject to rule promulgation by the board of chiropractic.

In addition, the bill would amend a section authorizing the board of chiropractic to establish criteria for the "approval of analytical instruments and adjustment apparatus to be used for the purpose of examining patients in locating spinal subluxations and misalignments of the human spine." That language would be deleted and the bill would specify that the board would promulgate rules to establish criteria for the "clinically appropriate use of the diagnostic, analytical, and treatment procedures, instruments, advice, exercise, and apparatus" that was described above. The bill would delete language requiring the criteria to be substantially equivalent to nationally recognized standards for the use and operation of the instruments and that the board could approve specific types and makes of instruments meeting that criteria. The bill would also delete a prohibition against using analytical instruments that did not meet the national standards or was not approved by the board.

MCL 333.16401 and 333.16423