

Legislative Analysis



CHIROPRACTORS: EXPAND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

House Bill 5759 (Substitute H-3)

House Bill 6201 (Substitute (H-2))

Sponsor: Representative Kathy Angerer

Committee: Health Policy

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FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bills 5759 (H-3) and 6201 (H-2) may have fiscal implications for the state as a provider of health care for employees and for persons enrolled in the Medicaid program. Because the state's health care coverage for both programs currently includes chiropractic services, savings related to access to chiropractic care particularly for back pain already have the opportunity to occur.

Very little research has been conducted related to the effectiveness of chiropractic care for anything other than back pain, so there is no clear indication of the fiscal impact of an expanded scope of practice for chiropractors on the health care system. There is potential for utilization to increase or instead be transferred between health professions and/or settings. There is potential for improved care and lower cost, however also the potential for improper diagnosis, care and/or treatment

Factors that could affect health care costs or regulatory costs also include: increased competition for services where the expanded scope of practice overlaps with scope of practice of other licensed health professionals; increased access to services for consumers; and the potential for increased inquiries, allegations and complaints to the state Board of Chiropractic regulating licensed chiropractors.

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