

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SENATE BILL 2044

By: Frix

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the practice of chiropractic;
8 amending 59 O.S. 2021, Sections 161.2, 161.3, 161.7,
9 161.8, 161.12, 161.16, and 161.17, which relate to
10 the Oklahoma Chiropractic Practice Act; expanding
11 educational programs; modifying grounds for
penalties; requiring certain application and
education for specified chiropractors; describing
certain educational program; providing for
codification; and providing an effective date.

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.2, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 161.2. A. Chiropractic is the science and art that
18 teaches health in anatomic relation and disease or abnormality in
19 anatomic disrelation, and includes hygienic, sanitary and
20 therapeutic measures incident thereto in humans. The scope of
21 practice of chiropractic shall include those diagnostic and
22 treatment services and procedures which have been taught by an
23 accredited ~~chiropractic~~ college and have been approved by the Board
24 of Chiropractic Examiners.

1 B. A chiropractic physician may engage in the practice of
2 animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment if certified to do so by
3 the Board. A licensed chiropractic physician may provide
4 chiropractic treatment to an animal without being certified in
5 animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment by the Board if an
6 animal has been referred to the chiropractic physician by a licensed
7 veterinarian in writing.

8 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.3, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 161.3. As used in the Oklahoma Chiropractic Practice
11 Act, these words, phrases or terms, unless the context otherwise
12 indicates, shall have the following meanings:

13 1. "Accredited ~~chiropractic~~ college" means ~~a~~ chiropractic an
14 educational institution which is accredited by an accrediting agency
15 recognized by the U.S. Department of Education;

16 2. "Animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment" means
17 treatment that includes vertebral subluxation complex (vsc) and
18 spinal manipulation of nonhuman vertebrates. The term "animal
19 chiropractic diagnosis and treatment" shall not be construed to
20 allow the:

- 21 a. use of x-rays,
- 22 b. performing of surgery,
- 23 c. dispensing or administering of medications, or
- 24 d. performance of traditional veterinary care;

1 3. "Applicant" means any person submitting an application for
2 licensure to the Board;

3 4. "Board" means the Board of Chiropractic Examiners;

4 5. "Certified chiropractic assistant" means an unlicensed
5 member of a chiropractic physician's team of healthcare workers who
6 may assist a chiropractic physician in the performance of
7 examination and therapeutic procedures and techniques necessary to
8 deliver healthcare services to patients within the scope of
9 chiropractic and has been certified by the Board;

10 6. "Chiropractic physician", "chiropractor", "doctor of
11 chiropractic", "practitioner of chiropractic" and "licensee" are
12 synonymous and mean a person holding an original license to practice
13 chiropractic in this state;

14 7. "Examination" means the process used by the Board, prior to
15 the issuance of an original license, to test the qualifications and
16 knowledge of an applicant on any or all of the following: current
17 statutes, rules or any of those subjects listed in Section 161.8 of
18 this title;

19 8. "Intern" means a student at an accredited ~~chiropractic~~
20 college who is participating in the Chiropractic Undergraduate
21 Preceptorship Program;

22 9. "Nonclinical" means of a business nature including, but not
23 limited to, practice management, insurance information, and computer

1 information. It shall also mean the discussion of philosophy as it
2 relates to the performance of chiropractic;

3 10. "Original license" means a license granting initial
4 authorization to practice chiropractic in this state issued by the
5 Board to an applicant found by the Board to meet the licensing
6 requirements of the Oklahoma Chiropractic Practice Act, by
7 examination pursuant to Section 161.7 of this title, or by
8 relocation of practice pursuant to Section 161.9 of this title;

9 11. "Preceptor" means a chiropractic physician who is
10 participating in the Chiropractic Undergraduate Preceptorship
11 Program;

12 12. "Relocation of practice" means the recognition and approval
13 by the Board, prior to the issuance of an original license, of the
14 chiropractic licensing process in another state, country, territory
15 or province; and

16 13. "Renewal license" means a license issued to a chiropractic
17 physician by the Board, on or before the first day of July of each
18 year, which authorizes such licensee to practice chiropractic in
19 this state during the succeeding calendar year.

20 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.7, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 161.7. A. 1. Applications for an original license by
23 examination to practice chiropractic in this state shall be made to
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1 the Board of Chiropractic Examiners in writing on a form and in a
2 manner prescribed by the Board.

3 2. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of Three
4 Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), which shall not be refundable under any
5 circumstances.

6 3. If the application is disapproved by the Board, the
7 applicant shall be so notified by the Executive Director, with the
8 reason for such disapproval fully stated in writing.

9 4. If the application is approved, the applicant may take an
10 examination administered by the Board for the purpose of securing an
11 original license. The Board may accept a passing score on an
12 examination administered by the National Board of Chiropractic
13 Examiners taken by the applicant or may require the applicant to
14 take an examination administered by the Board or both.

15 5. Prior to approval of an application, the Board may authorize
16 the Executive Director to issue a temporary license to an applicant
17 who has submitted a completed application and who, upon payment of
18 the examination fee, has passed the required examination with a
19 score acceptable to the Board. A temporary license shall authorize
20 the applicant to practice chiropractic in Oklahoma between the
21 submission of the application and the applicant's approval for
22 licensure by the Board. A temporary license shall expire upon the
23 Board's approval of a permanent license or ten (10) calendar days

1 following the Board's denial of an application for a permanent
2 license.

3 B. Applicants for an original license to practice chiropractic
4 in this state shall submit to the Board of Chiropractic Examiners
5 documentary evidence of completion of:

6 1. A course of resident study of not less than four (4) years
7 of nine (9) months each in an accredited ~~chiropractic~~ college. A
8 senior student at an accredited ~~chiropractic~~ college may make
9 application for an original license by examination prior to
10 graduation, but such a license shall not be issued until documentary
11 evidence of the graduation of the student from the college has been
12 submitted to the Board;

13 2. Parts I, II, III, IV and physiotherapy as administered by
14 the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners with a passing score;
15 and

16 3. Passing a jurisprudence examination approved by the Board
17 with a score of seventy-five percent (75%) or better.

18 C. Each applicant shall be a graduate of an accredited
19 ~~chiropractic~~ college. For those graduating from a chiropractic
20 program outside the United States, the applicants must have
21 completed an educational program leading to a degree in chiropractic
22 from an institution authorized to operate by the government having
23 jurisdiction in which it is domiciled.

1 D. All credentials, diplomas, and other required documentation
2 in a foreign language submitted to the Board by such applicants
3 shall be accompanied by notarized English translations.

4 E. International applicants shall provide satisfactory evidence
5 of meeting the requirements for permanent residence or temporary
6 nonimmigrant status as set forth by the United States Citizenship
7 and Immigration Services.

8 F. Effective January 1, 2006, out-of-state licensed applicants
9 shall submit to the Board documentary evidence that the applicant
10 has malpractice insurance. New applicants shall submit to the Board
11 documentary evidence that the applicant has malpractice insurance
12 within six (6) months of obtaining their Oklahoma license.

13 G. An applicant for an original license shall:

14 1. Inform the Board as to whether the person has previously
15 been licensed in Oklahoma and whether the license was revoked or
16 surrendered;

17 2. Inform the Board as to whether the applicant has ever been
18 licensed in another jurisdiction and whether any disciplinary action
19 was taken against the applicant;

20 3. Provide full disclosure to the Board of any criminal
21 proceeding taken against the applicant including, but not limited
22 to, pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, receiving a deferred
23 sentence for, or being convicted of a felony crime that

1 substantially relates to the practice of chiropractic and poses a
2 reasonable threat to public safety; and

3 4. If requested, appear before the Board for a personal
4 interview.

5 H. No later than one (1) year after receiving a license to
6 practice in Oklahoma, chiropractic physicians shall complete an
7 orientation course of training approved by the Board. The
8 orientation course hours shall count as continuing education credits
9 for the year in which they were earned. An association may provide
10 the orientation course of training.

11 I. The Board may issue an original license to those applicants
12 who have passed the required examination with a score acceptable to
13 the Board and who meet all other requirements set forth by the
14 Board. No license fee shall be charged by the Board for the balance
15 of the calendar year in which such a license is issued.

16 J. In addition to an applicant's failure to meet any other
17 requirements imposed by this section or other applicable law, the
18 Board may deny a license or impose probationary conditions if an
19 applicant has:

20 1. Pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, received a deferred
21 sentence for, or been convicted of a felony crime that substantially
22 relates to the practice of chiropractic and poses a reasonable
23 threat to public safety;

24 2. Been the subject of disciplinary action by the Board; or

1 3. Been the subject of disciplinary action in another
2 jurisdiction.

3 K. As used in this section:

4 1. "Substantially relates" means the nature of criminal conduct
5 for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on the
6 fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or
7 responsibilities necessarily related to the occupation; and

8 2. "Poses a reasonable threat" means the nature of criminal
9 conduct for which the person was convicted involved an act or threat
10 of harm against another and has a bearing on the fitness or ability
11 to serve the public or work with others in the occupation.

12 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.8, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 161.8. If an examination is administered by the Board
15 of Chiropractic Examiners, it shall include those technical,
16 professional and practical subjects that relate to the practice of
17 chiropractic including, but not limited to, chiropractic principles,
18 anatomy, histology, physiology, symptomatology, orthopedia,
19 chemistry, spinography, diagnosis, sanitation and hygiene,
20 pathology, public health service and adjustology. The Board shall
21 also examine each applicant in the art of chiropractic adjusting, x-
22 ray, diagnostic laboratory procedures, physiological therapeutics
23 and other subjects taught by accredited ~~chiropractic~~ colleges.

1 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.12, is

2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 161.12. A. The Board of Chiropractic Examiners is
4 authorized, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing pursuant
5 to Article II of the Administrative Procedures Act, to issue an
6 order imposing one or more of the following penalties whenever the
7 Board finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that a chiropractic
8 physician has committed any of the acts or occurrences set forth in
9 subsection B of this section:

10 1. Disapproval of an application for a renewal license;

11 2. Revocation or suspension of an original license or renewal
12 license, or both;

13 3. Restriction of the practice of a chiropractic physician
14 under such terms and conditions as deemed appropriate by the Board;

15 4. An administrative fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars
16 (\$1,000.00) for each count or separate violation;

17 5. A censure or reprimand;

18 6. Placement of a chiropractic physician on probation for a
19 period of time and under such terms and conditions as the Board may
20 specify, including requiring the chiropractic physician to submit to
21 treatment, to attend continuing education courses, to submit to
22 reexamination, or to work under the supervision of another
23 chiropractic physician; and

1 7. The assessment of costs expended by the Board in
2 investigating and prosecuting a violation. The costs may include,
3 but are not limited to, staff time, salary and travel expenses,
4 witness fees and attorney fees, and shall be considered part of the
5 order of the Board.

6 B. The following acts or occurrences by a chiropractic
7 physician shall constitute grounds for which the penalties specified
8 in subsection A of this section may be imposed by order of the
9 Board:

10 1. Pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, or being convicted
11 of, a felony, a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or a
12 violation of federal or state controlled dangerous substances laws.
13 A copy of the judgment and sentence of the conviction, duly
14 certified by the clerk of the court in which the conviction was
15 obtained, and a certificate of the clerk that the conviction has
16 become final, shall be sufficient evidence for the imposition of a
17 penalty;

18 2. Being habitually drunk or habitually using habit-forming
19 drugs;

20 3. Using advertising in which statements are made that are
21 fraudulent, deceitful or misleading to the public;

22 4. Aiding or abetting any person not licensed to practice
23 chiropractic in this state to practice chiropractic, except students
24 who are regularly enrolled in an accredited ~~chiropractic~~ college;

1 5. Performing or attempting to perform major or minor surgery
2 in this state, or using electricity in any form for surgical
3 purposes, including cauterization;

4 6. Using or having in a chiropractic physician's possession any
5 instrument for treatment purposes, the use or possession of which
6 has been prohibited or declared unlawful by any agency of the United
7 States or the State of Oklahoma;

8 7. Unlawfully possessing, prescribing or administering any
9 drug, medicine, serum or vaccine. This section shall not prevent a
10 chiropractic physician from possessing, prescribing or
11 administering, by a needle or otherwise, vitamins, minerals or
12 nutritional supplements, or from practicing within the scope of the
13 science and art of chiropractic as defined in Section 161.2 of this
14 title;

15 8. Advertising or displaying, directly or indirectly, any
16 certificate, diploma or other document which conveys or implies
17 information that the person is skilled in any healing art other than
18 chiropractic unless the chiropractic physician also possesses a
19 valid current license in said healing art;

20 9. Obtaining an original license or renewal license in a
21 fraudulent manner;

22 10. Violating any provision of the Unfair Claims Settlement
23 Practices Act or any rule promulgated pursuant thereto;

1 11. Willfully aiding or assisting an insurer, as defined in
2 Section 1250.2 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or an
3 administrator, as defined in Section 1442 of Title 36 of the
4 Oklahoma Statutes, to deny claims which under the terms of the
5 insurance contract are covered services and are medically necessary;

6 12. Violating any provision of the Oklahoma Chiropractic
7 Practice Act; or

8 13. Violating any of the rules of the Board.

9 C. Any chiropractic physician against whom a penalty is imposed
10 by an order of the Board under the provisions of this section shall
11 have the right to seek a judicial review of the order pursuant to
12 Article II of the Administrative Procedures Act.

13 D. The Board is authorized to issue a confidential letter of
14 concern to a chiropractic physician when, though evidence does not
15 warrant initiation of an individual proceeding, the Board has noted
16 indications of possible errant conduct by the chiropractic physician
17 that could lead to serious consequences and formal action by the
18 Board.

19 E. If no order imposing a penalty against a chiropractic
20 physician is issued by the Board within three (3) years after a
21 complaint against the chiropractic physician is received by the
22 Board, the complaint and all related documents shall be expunged
23 from the records of the Board.

1 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.16, is

2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 161.16. A. A Chiropractic Education Scholarship
4 Program, to be administered by the Board of Chiropractic Examiners,
5 is hereby created. Chiropractic education scholarships may be
6 awarded each fiscal year to persons approved by the Board for the
7 study of chiropractic leading to the attainment of the degree of
8 doctor of chiropractic. To be eligible to receive a scholarship a
9 person must:

10 1. Be a legal resident of this state for not less than five (5)
11 years prior to the date of submitting an application to the Board;

12 2. Meet all requirements and academic standards established by
13 the Board;

14 3. Attend an accredited ~~chiropractic~~ college; and

15 4. Demonstrate satisfactory progress in the study of
16 chiropractic.

17 B. Preference in the granting of such scholarships shall be
18 given to those individuals with the highest weighted scholastic
19 averages, provided they are persons of high integrity and character
20 and are found by the Board to have those qualities and attributes
21 which give a reasonable assurance of their pursuing to completion
22 the course of study required for a degree of doctor of chiropractic.

23 The scholarships shall be awarded in an amount not to exceed Six
24 Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) each year per student. No student

1 shall be given more than four (4) annual scholarships. The Board is
2 authorized to accept any federal, state, county or private funds,
3 grants or appropriations to be used to award such scholarships to
4 qualified persons.

5 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.17, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 161.17. A Chiropractic Undergraduate Preceptorship
8 Program, in conjunction with accredited ~~chiropractic~~ colleges, shall
9 be established by the Board of Chiropractic Examiners, who may
10 appoint five (5) chiropractic physicians to administer the program.

11 Each intern in the program shall pay a nonrefundable fee of
12 Thirty-five Dollars (\$35.00) to the Board each trimester the intern
13 participates in the program.

14 The Board shall by rule establish standards, qualifications and
15 responsibilities for interns, preceptors and accredited ~~chiropractic~~
16 colleges participating in the program.

17 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 161.21 of Title 59, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 Any chiropractic physician who desires to administer vitamins,
21 minerals, or nutritional supplements by means of injectable
22 procedures shall make application, on a form prescribed by the Board
23 of Chiropractic Examiners, for authorization for such purpose.

24 Every chiropractic physician shall submit to the Board documentary

1 evidence of satisfactory completion of at least one hundred twenty
2 (120) hours of education and training in administration and use of
3 such injectables. Such education and training shall be obtained at
4 an educational program that has been approved by the Board and meets
5 the following criteria:

6 1. Is conducted under the auspices of and taught by the
7 postgraduate faculty of an accredited college;

8 2. Consists of a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) hours;

9 3. Requires completion of a certification examination given by
10 a board independent of the entity which taught the course; and

11 4. Meets such other criteria as the Board of Chiropractic
12 Examiners deems appropriate.

13 SECTION 9. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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