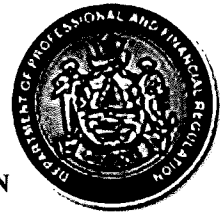




Janet T. Mills  
Governor

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL &  
FINANCIAL REGULATION  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION



Joan F. Cohen  
Commissioner

**TESTIMONY OF  
PENNY VAILLANCOURT, DEPUTY COMMISSISONER**

**NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 1220**

**“An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids”**

**Sponsored by Representative Robert Foley**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**Public Hearing: April 3, 2025, 1:00 p.m.**

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Committee. My name is Penny Vaillancourt, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and I am here on behalf of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (“OPOR”) testifying neither for nor against L.D. 1220.

This bill seeks to expand the scope of practice of a licensed chiropractor to include animal chiropractor care for dogs and equids. OPOR is not taking a position on the bill but notes the following for your consideration.

We believe that the proposal triggers a Sunrise Review pursuant to Title 32 Chapter 1-A (2). A Sunrise Review is triggered when a bill proposes licensing a previously unregulated profession or when there is a *substantial expansion* of regulation of a regulated professional. There will be a corresponding fiscal note to reflect costs associated with special contracting services for a study.

If the committee were to move forward on the bill as drafted, then OPOR offers the following technical, safety and enforcement considerations. The bill:

- Doesn’t clearly define of what constitutes “animal chiropractic care.”
- Doesn’t set forth the standards to which someone performing animal chiropractic care would be held.
- Needs to more clearly define “dog” to determine whether it is intended only for domesticated and/or wild canines.
- Identifies a 210-hour course of instruction in animal chiropractic care approved by the board. It is unclear whether such training exists and whether the training is accredited to meet current standards of care. The bill also doesn’t give the Board flexibility to consider training courses that may exceed that 210-hour course.

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- Proposes to require that the chiropractor obtain an additional 8 hours of instruction in contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases and at least 1 hour of instruction in animal chiropractic care jurisprudence IF a chiropractor does not get a referral. Assuming that 210-hour instruction includes contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases, it is unclear what the additional 8 hours would achieve if the only reason was due to the lack of a referral.
- Requires an exam in “animal chiropractic care jurisprudence” which is not defined. The board does not have the expertise, funding or staffing to create such an examination.
- Does not differentiate between the locations where the chiropractic animal treatment may be given which raises public health and safety concerns. It is possible that the bill as drafted would allow animal chiropractic care in the same location as human treatment.
- Requires a certified animal chiropractic provider to maintain malpractice insurance specific to animal chiropractic but does not provide guidance on the reasonable or minimum amount of insurance.
- It is unclear whether the Board of Chiropractic Licensure or the State Board of Veterinary Medicine has enforcement authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I would be happy to answer any questions now or at work session.