

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4706--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CLARK, LUPARDO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to modernizing the chiropractic scope of practice; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 6551 of the education law, as added by chapter 987  
2 of the laws of 1971, paragraphs a and b of subdivision 2 as amended by  
3 chapter 450 of the laws of 1983, and subdivision 3 as amended by chapter  
4 683 of the laws of 1991, is amended to read as follows:

5 § 6551. Definition of practice of chiropractic. 1. The practice of  
6 the profession of chiropractic is defined as [~~detecting and correcting~~  
7 ~~by manual or mechanical means structural imbalance, distortion, or~~  
8 ~~subluxations in the human body for the purpose of removing nerve inter-~~  
9 ~~ference and the effects thereof, where such interference is the result~~  
10 ~~of or related to distortion, misalignment or subluxation of or in the~~  
11 ~~vertebral column. 2.] the examination, evaluation, detection, diagnosis  
12 and treatment of neuromusculoskeletal conditions including subluxations  
13 in the vertebral column or other articulations and soft tissue of the  
14 human body by manual or mechanical means for the restoration and mainte-  
15 nance of health.~~

16 2. a. The practice of chiropractic includes, but is not limited to,  
17 physical and functional examination of patients, health assessment, work  
18 capability assessment, handicap eligibility assessment, school and other  
19 sports assessment, school attendance assessment, spinal health assess-  
20 ment, analysis, or to give consultation, advice, recommendations and  
21 counseling regarding anatomy, physiology, neurology, general health  
22 matters, wellness and health optimization by any means of communication,  
23 the use of x-ray and diagnostic imaging studies using ionizing and non-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD05767-02-5

1 ionizing imaging methods, adjustment, mobilization, manipulation, trac-  
2 tion, and decompression, and other procedures consisting of but not  
3 limited to, heat, cold, light, air, water, sound, electricity, massage,  
4 manual therapies, therapeutic exercise with or without assistive devices  
5 and clinical laboratory testing methods approved by the department as  
6 being appropriate to the practice of chiropractic.

7 b. Chiropractic examination, diagnostic and treatment methods may also  
8 include electrodiagnostic testing and manipulation under anesthesia when  
9 appropriate education standards have been met and as approved by the  
10 department as being appropriate to the practice of chiropractic.

11 c. The practice of the profession of chiropractic allows a licensed  
12 chiropractor who has successfully completed a registered doctoral, post-  
13 doctoral or continuing education certification program of a higher  
14 education credential by an accrediting agency, which contains courses of  
15 study in wellness care methods, nutrition, and dietary advice satisfac-  
16 tory to the department; use of wellness care methods and the ability to  
17 engage in nutritional counseling and dietary advice, including the  
18 dispensing of food concentrates, food extracts, nutraceuticals, vita-  
19 mins, minerals, and other nutritional supplements approved by the  
20 department as being appropriate to, and as a part of, the practice of  
21 chiropractic, as the above relates to the definition of the practice of  
22 chiropractic in subdivision one of this section.

23 3. a. A license to practice as a chiropractor shall permit a chirop-  
24 ractic practitioner in their professional discretion the ability to  
25 take, order and use x-ray and diagnostic imaging studies but shall not  
26 permit the holder thereof to use [~~radio-therapy, fluoroscopy, or any~~  
27 ~~form of ionizing radiation except X-ray which shall be used for the~~  
28 ~~detection of structural imbalance, distortion, or sublaxations in the~~  
29 ~~human body]~~ ionizing radiation sources for the purposes of radiotherapy.

30 b. The requirements and limitations with respect to the use of [~~X-ray~~]  
31 diagnostic imaging studies by chiropractors shall be enforced by the  
32 state commissioner of health and [~~he~~] the commissioner is authorized to  
33 promulgate rules and regulations after conferring with the [~~board~~]  
34 department to carry out the purposes of this subdivision.

35 c. Chiropractors shall retain for a period of three years all [~~X-ray~~  
36 ~~films]~~ diagnostic images taken in the course of their practice, together  
37 with the records pertaining thereto, and shall make such [~~films]~~ images  
38 and records available to the state commissioner of health or [~~his~~] their  
39 representative on demand.

40 [~~3-~~] 4. Chiropractors may use diagnostic clinical laboratory methods  
41 involving chemical or biological means which particular tests and  
42 services shall be approved by the department as appropriate to the prac-  
43 tice of chiropractic.

44 5. A license to practice chiropractic shall not permit the holder  
45 thereof to treat for any infectious diseases such as pneumonia, any  
46 communicable diseases listed in the sanitary code of the state of New  
47 York, any of the cardio-vascular-renal or cardio-pulmonary diseases, any  
48 surgical condition [~~of the abdomen such as acute appendicitis, or~~  
49 ~~diabetes], or any benign or malignant neoplasms; to operate; to reduce~~  
50 fractures [~~or dislocations]; to prescribe, administer, dispense or use~~  
51 in [~~his~~] their practice drugs or medicines[~~, or to use diagnostic or~~  
52 ~~therapeutic methods involving chemical or biological means except diag-~~  
53 ~~nostic services performed by clinical laboratories which services shall~~  
54 ~~be approved by the board as appropriate to the practice of chiropractic,~~  
55 ~~or to utilize electrical devices except those devices approved by the~~  
56 ~~board as being appropriate to the practice of chiropractic. Nothing~~

1 ~~herein shall be construed to prohibit a licensed chiropractor who has~~  
2 ~~successfully completed a registered doctoral program in chiropractic,~~  
3 ~~which contains courses of study in nutrition satisfactory to the depart-~~  
4 ~~ment, from using nutritional counseling, including the dispensing of~~  
5 ~~food concentrates, food extracts, vitamins, minerals, and other nutri-~~  
6 ~~tional supplements approved by the board as being appropriate to, and as~~  
7 ~~a part of, his or her practice of chiropractic. Nothing herein shall be~~  
8 ~~construed to prohibit an individual who is not subject to regulation in~~  
9 ~~this state as a licensed chiropractor from engaging in nutritional coun-~~  
10 ~~seling.]~~ or controlled substances or to administer or use anesthetics.  
11 Chiropractors may use topical analgesic substances and anesthetic balms,  
12 salves or emollients or advise on over the counter substances.

13 § 2. Section 6552 of the education law, as added by chapter 987 of the  
14 laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

15 § 6552. Practice of chiropractic and use of title "chiropractor" or  
16 "doctor of chiropractic". Only a person licensed [~~or exempt~~] or other-  
17 wise authorized under this article [~~shall~~] to practice chiropractic [~~or~~]  
18 may use the title "chiropractor" or "doctor of chiropractic".

19 § 3. Section 6553 of the education law, as added by chapter 987 of the  
20 laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

21 § 6553. State board for chiropractic. A state board for chiropractic  
22 shall be appointed by the board of regents on recommendation of the  
23 commissioner for the purpose of assisting the board of regents and the  
24 department on matters of professional licensing and professional conduct  
25 in accordance with section sixty-five hundred eight of this title. The  
26 board shall be composed of not less than [~~seven~~] eight members, includ-  
27 ing [~~at least four~~] seven licensed chiropractors[, ~~one licensed physi-~~  
28 ~~cian who is a doctor of medicine, one licensed physician who is a doctor~~  
29 ~~of osteopathy, and one educator who holds a doctorate or equivalent~~  
30 ~~degree in either anatomy, physiology, pathology, chemistry or microbiol-~~  
31 ~~ogy]~~ in this state for at least five years and one public member. An  
32 executive secretary to the board shall be appointed by the board of  
33 regents on recommendation of the commissioner.

34 § 4. Section 6554 of the education law, as added by chapter 987 of the  
35 laws of 1971, subdivision 3 as amended by chapter 994 of the laws of  
36 1971, subdivision 6 as amended by chapter 669 of the laws of 2022, and  
37 subdivision 8 as amended by chapter 62 of the laws of 1989, is amended  
38 to read as follows:

39 § 6554. Requirements for a professional license. To qualify for a  
40 license as a chiropractor, an applicant shall fulfill the following  
41 requirements:

- 42 (1) Application: file an application with the department;
- 43 (2) Education: have received an education, including [~~two~~] three years  
44 or ninety semester hours of credit or equivalent trimester or quarter  
45 hours of credit of preprofessional college study and completion of a  
46 [~~four-year resident program in chiropractic,~~] program of chiropractic  
47 education of not less than four academic years, or the equivalent there-  
48 of in accordance with the commissioner's regulations;
- 49 (3) Experience: have experience satisfactory to the board and in  
50 accordance with the commissioner's regulations[~~+~~];
- 51 (4) Examination: pass examinations satisfactory to the board and in  
52 accordance with the commissioner's regulations[, ~~in clinical chiroprac-~~  
53 ~~tic analysis, the practice of chiropractic, X ray as it relates to~~  
54 ~~chiropractic analysis, and examinations satisfactory to the department~~  
55 ~~in anatomy, physiology, pathology, chemistry, microbiology, diagnosis,~~  
56 ~~and the use and effect of X-ray]~~ for the practice of chiropractic;

1 (5) Age: be at least twenty-one years of age;

2 (6) Citizenship or immigration status: be a United States citizen or a  
3 noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United  
4 States;

5 (7) Character: be of good moral character as determined by the depart-  
6 ment; and

7 (8) Fees: pay a fee of one hundred seventy-five dollars to the depart-  
8 ment for [~~admission to a department conducted examination and for~~] an  
9 initial license upon completion and passage of a department approved  
10 examination, a fee of eighty-five dollars for each reexamination, a fee  
11 of one hundred fifteen dollars for an initial license for persons not  
12 requiring admission to a department conducted examination, and a fee of  
13 one hundred fifty-five dollars for each triennial registration period.

14 § 5. Section 6555 of the education law, as amended by chapter 537 of  
15 the laws of 1983, is amended to read as follows:

16 § 6555. Exempt persons. [~~Nothing in this article shall be construed~~  
17 ~~to affect or prevent a student enrolled in a college of chiropractic in~~  
18 ~~this state from engaging in all phases of clinical practice under super-~~  
19 ~~vision of a licensed chiropractor or physician in a curriculum regis-~~  
20 ~~tered by the department.~~] The following persons under the following  
21 limitations may practice chiropractic within the state without a  
22 license:

23 1. A student enrolled in any accredited college of chiropractic engag-  
24 ing in all phases of clinical practice under supervision of a licensed  
25 chiropractor or physician in a curriculum registered by the department;  
26 or

27 2. A student who is performing a clinical externship or preceptorship  
28 in a chiropractic office or clinic setting and who is enrolled in a  
29 chiropractic school which meets the standards satisfactory to the  
30 department, provided such practice is under the direct supervision of a  
31 licensed chiropractor for a maximum period of twelve months; or

32 3. Any chiropractor authorized to practice chiropractic while travel-  
33 ling from another state or country in which such chiropractor is  
34 licensed, to provide chiropractic services during any emergency services  
35 associated with any rescue, recovery or humanitarian relief effort  
36 provided such practice is limited to the organized emergency services;  
37 or

38 4. A chiropractor who is not a resident of this state who is legally  
39 qualified to practice in their state and who is travelling from another  
40 state for the purpose of providing chiropractic services for a specific  
41 purpose or event of limited duration; or

42 5. Any chiropractor who is licensed in another state or country and  
43 who is meeting or communicating with a chiropractor licensed in this  
44 state, for purposes of consultation, provided such practice is limited  
45 to such consultation; or

46 6. Any chiropractor who is licensed in another state or country, who  
47 is visiting a chiropractic school or teaching facility in this state to  
48 receive chiropractic instruction for a period not to exceed six months  
49 or to conduct chiropractic instruction, provided such practice is limit-  
50 ed to such instruction and is under the general supervision of a  
51 licensed chiropractor; or

52 7. Any chiropractor who is authorized by a foreign government to prac-  
53 tice in relation to its diplomatic, consular or maritime staffs,  
54 provided such practice is limited to such staffs; or

55 8. Any commissioned chiropractic officer who is serving in the United  
56 States armed forces or public health service or any chiropractor who is

1 employed in the United States Veterans Administration, provided such  
2 practice is limited to such service or employment.

3 § 6. Section 6556 of the education law is REPEALED and a new section  
4 6556 is added to read as follows:

5 § 6556. Limited permits. Permits limited as to eligibility, practice  
6 and duration, shall be issued by the department to eligible applicants,  
7 as follows:

8 1. Eligibility: The following persons shall be eligible for a limited  
9 permit:

10 a. A person who fulfills all requirements for a license as a chiro-  
11 practor except those relating to the examination and citizenship or  
12 permanent residence in the United States;

13 b. A licensed foreign chiropractor who meets guidelines developed in  
14 accordance with the commissioner's regulations;

15 c. A licensed foreign chiropractor or a foreign intern who is in this  
16 country on a non-immigration visa for the continuation of chiropractic  
17 study who meets guidelines developed in accordance with the commis-  
18 ioner's regulations;

19 d. Any graduate of a chiropractic school which meets standards satis-  
20 factory to the department, provided such practice is under the general  
21 supervision of a licensed chiropractor for a maximum period of twelve  
22 months from date of graduation.

23 2. Limit of practice. A permittee shall be authorized to practice  
24 chiropractic only under the supervision of a licensed chiropractor and  
25 only in a licensed chiropractic office or clinical setting.

26 3. Duration. A limited permit shall be valid for one year. A limited  
27 permit may be renewed annually at the discretion of the department.

28 4. Fees. The fee for each limited permit and for each renewal shall be  
29 one hundred five dollars.

30 § 7. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6557 to read  
31 as follows:

32 § 6557. Special provisions. 1. Non-liability of licensed chiropractors  
33 for first aid or emergency treatment. Notwithstanding any inconsistent  
34 provision of any general, special or local law, any licensed chiroprac-  
35 tor who voluntarily and without the expectation of monetary compensation  
36 renders first aid or emergency treatment at the scene of an accident or  
37 other emergency, outside a hospital, doctor's office or any other place  
38 having proper and necessary chiropractic equipment, to a person who is  
39 unconscious, ill or injured, shall not be liable for damages for inju-  
40 ries alleged to have been sustained by such person or for damages for  
41 the death of such person alleged to have occurred by reason of an act or  
42 omission in the rendering of such first aid or emergency treatment  
43 unless it is established that such injuries were or such death was  
44 caused by gross negligence on the part of such chiropractor. Nothing in  
45 this section shall be deemed or construed to relieve a licensed chiro-  
46 practor from liability for damages for injuries or death caused by an  
47 act or omission on the part of a chiropractor while rendering profes-  
48 sional services in the normal and ordinary course of their practice.

49 2. This article shall not be construed to affect or prevent the  
50 following:

51 a. The furnishing of any assistance in an emergency;

52 b. The chiropractor from being a primary portal of entry healthcare  
53 provider.

54 3. There shall be no monetary liability on the part of, and no cause  
55 of action for damages shall arise against, any person, partnership,  
56 corporation, firm, society, or other entity on account of the communi-

1 cation of information in the possession of such person or entity, or on  
2 account of any recommendation or evaluation, regarding the qualifica-  
3 tions, fitness, or professional conduct or practices of a chiropractor,  
4 to any governmental agency, chiropractic society, a hospital as defined  
5 in article twenty-eight of the public health law, a hospital as defined  
6 in subdivision ten of section 1.03 of the mental hygiene law, or a  
7 health maintenance organization organized under article forty-four of  
8 the public health law or article forty-three of the insurance law,  
9 including a committee of an individual practice association or medical  
10 group acting pursuant to a contract with a health maintenance organiza-  
11 tion. The foregoing shall not apply to information which is untrue and  
12 communicated with malicious intent.

13 § 8. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
14 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.