

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 667

By: Coleman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to chiropractors; amending 59 O.S. 2021, Sections 161.2, 161.3, 161.7, 161.8, and 161.9, which relate to the Oklahoma Chiropractic Practice Act; modifying definitions; requiring use of licensure portals; modifying certain licensing requirements; modifying requirements for notification of disapproval; updating statutory language; repealing 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.12a, which relates to registration as chiropractic claims consultant; and providing an effective date.

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

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

Section 161.2. A. Chiropractic is the science and art that teaches health in anatomic relation and disease or abnormality in anatomic disrelation, and includes hygienic, sanitary and therapeutic measures incident thereto in humans. The scope of practice of chiropractic shall include those diagnostic and treatment services and procedures which have been taught by ~~an~~ accredited a chiropractic college program accredited by the Council

1 on Chiropractic Education and have been approved by the Board of  
2 Chiropractic Examiners.

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

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

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

15 1. "Accredited chiropractic ~~college~~ program" means a  
16 chiropractic ~~educational institution~~ degree program which is  
17 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S.  
18 Department of Education;

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

24 a. use of x-rays,

- b. performing of surgery,
- c. dispensing or administering of medications, or
- d. performance of traditional veterinary care;

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

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

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

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

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

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

1        9. "Nonclinical" means of a business nature including, but not  
2 limited to, practice management, insurance information, and computer  
3 information. It shall also mean the discussion of philosophy as it  
4 relates to the performance of chiropractic;

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

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

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

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

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

1       Section 161.7. A. 1. Applications for an original license by  
2 examination to practice chiropractic in this state shall be made to  
3 the Board of Chiropractic Examiners ~~in writing on a form and in a~~  
4 ~~manner prescribed by the Board~~ through the online licensure portal.

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

8       3. If the application is disapproved by the Board, the  
9 applicant shall be so notified by the Executive Director of the  
10 Board of Chiropractic Examiners, with the reason for such  
11 disapproval fully stated in writing.

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

18       5. Prior to approval of an application, the Board may authorize  
19 the Executive Director of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners to  
20 issue a temporary license to an applicant who has submitted a  
21 completed application and who, upon payment of the examination fee,  
22 has passed the required examination with a score acceptable to the  
23 Board. A temporary license shall authorize the applicant to  
24 practice chiropractic in Oklahoma between the submission of the  
25

1 application and the applicant's approval for licensure by the Board.  
2 A temporary license shall expire upon the Board's approval of a  
3 permanent license or ten (10) calendar days following the Board's  
4 denial of an application for a permanent license.

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

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

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

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

22 C. Each applicant shall be a graduate of an accredited  
23 chiropractic ~~college~~ program. For those graduating from a  
24 chiropractic program outside the United States, the applicants must

1 have completed an educational program leading to a degree in  
2 chiropractic from an institution authorized to operate by the  
3 government having jurisdiction in which it is domiciled.

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

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

11 F. Effective January 1, 2006, out-of-state licensed applicants  
12 shall submit to the Board documentary evidence that the applicant  
13 has malpractice insurance. New applicants shall submit to the Board  
14 documentary evidence that the applicant has malpractice insurance  
15 within six (6) months of obtaining ~~their~~ his or her Oklahoma  
16 license.

17 G. An applicant for an original license shall:

18 1. Inform the Board as to whether the person has previously  
19 been licensed in Oklahoma and whether the license was revoked or  
20 surrendered;

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

1       3. Provide full disclosure to the Board of any criminal  
2 proceeding taken against the applicant including, but not limited  
3 to, pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, receiving a deferred  
4 sentence for, or being convicted of a felony crime that  
5 substantially relates to the practice of chiropractic and poses a  
6 reasonable threat to public safety; and

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

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

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

20       J. In addition to an applicant's failure to meet any other  
21 requirements imposed by this section or other applicable law, the  
22 Board may deny a license or impose probationary conditions if an  
23 applicant has:  
24  
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1        1. Pledged guilty or nolo contendere to, received a deferred  
2 sentence for, or been convicted of a felony crime that substantially  
3 relates to the practice of chiropractic and poses a reasonable  
4 threat to public safety;

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

6        3. Been the subject of disciplinary action in another  
7 jurisdiction.

8        K. As used in this section:

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

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

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

19        Section 161.8. If an examination is administered by the Board  
20 of Chiropractic Examiners, it shall include those technical,  
21 professional and practical subjects that relate to the practice of  
22 chiropractic including, but not limited to, chiropractic principles,  
23 anatomy, histology, physiology, symptomatology, orthopedia,  
24 chemistry, spinography, diagnosis, sanitation and hygiene,

1 pathology, public health service and adjustology. The Board shall  
2 also examine each applicant in the art of chiropractic adjusting, x-  
3 ray, diagnostic laboratory procedures, physiological therapeutics  
4 and other subjects taught by accredited chiropractic ~~colleges~~  
5 programs.

6 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.9, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Section 161.9. A. Applications for an original license by  
9 relocation of practice to practice chiropractic in this state shall  
10 be made to the Board of Chiropractic Examiners ~~in writing on a form~~  
11 ~~and in a manner prescribed by the Board~~ through the online licensure  
12 portal. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of Three  
13 Hundred Dollars (\$300.00), which shall not be refundable under any  
14 circumstances. If the application is disapproved by the Board, ~~it~~  
15 ~~shall be returned to the applicant~~ shall be notified by the  
16 Executive Director of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners, with the  
17 reason for its disapproval fully stated in writing.

18 B. The Board may, in its discretion, issue an original license  
19 by relocation to practice to an applicant who is currently licensed  
20 to practice chiropractic in another state, country, territory or  
21 province, upon the following conditions:

- 22 1. That the applicant is of good moral character;
- 23 2. That the requirements for licensure in the state, country,  
24 territory or province in which the applicant is licensed are deemed

1 by the Board to be equivalent to the requirements for obtaining an  
2 original license by examination in force in this state at the date  
3 of such license;

4 3. That the applicant has no disciplinary matters pending  
5 against him or her in any state, country, territory or province;

6 4. That the license of the applicant was obtained by  
7 examination in the state, country, territory or province wherein it  
8 was issued, or was obtained by examination of the National Board of  
9 Chiropractic Examiners;

10 5. That the applicant passes a jurisprudence examination given  
11 by the Board or the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners with a  
12 minimum score of seventy-five percent (75%) or better; and

13 6. That the applicant meets all other requirements of the  
14 Oklahoma Chiropractic Practice Act.

15 C. Any applicant requesting a license by relocation of practice  
16 into Oklahoma shall:

17 1. Submit to the Board documentary evidence that the applicant  
18 has been in active practice as a chiropractic physician three (3)  
19 years immediately preceding the date of the application;

20 2. Provide full disclosure to the Board of any disciplinary  
21 action taken against the applicant pursuant to licensure as a  
22 chiropractic physician in any state pursuant to licensure and/or  
23 criminal proceedings;

1        3. Provide full disclosure to the Board of any criminal  
2 proceeding taken against the applicant in any jurisdiction  
3 including, but not limited to:

- 4            a. pleading guilty, pleading nolo contendere, receiving a  
5                deferred sentence or being convicted of a felony,
- 6            b. pleading guilty, pleading nolo contendere, receiving a  
7                deferred sentence or being convicted of a misdemeanor  
8                involving moral turpitude, or
- 9            c. pleading guilty, pleading nolo contendere, receiving a  
10                deferred sentence or being convicted of a violation of  
11                federal or state controlled dangerous substance laws;

12        4. If requested, appear before the Board for a personal  
13 interview; and

14        5. Pay an application fee to be set by rule of the Board.

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

1 E. No license fee shall be charged by the Board for the balance  
2 of the calendar year in which such a license is issued.

3 F. In addition to an applicant's failure to meet any other  
4 requirements imposed by this section or other applicable law, the  
5 Board may deny a license or impose probationary conditions if an  
6 applicant has:

7 1. Pledaded guilty, pleaded nolo contendere, received a deferred  
8 sentence or been convicted of a felony;

9 2. Pledaded guilty, pleaded nolo contendere, received a deferred  
10 sentence or been convicted of a misdemeanor involving moral  
11 turpitude;

12 3. Pledaded guilty, pleaded nolo contendere, received a deferred  
13 sentence or been convicted of a violation of federal or state  
14 controlled dangerous substance laws;

15 4. Been the subject of disciplinary action by the Board; or

16 5. Been the subject of disciplinary action in another  
17 jurisdiction.

18 SECTION 6. REPEALER 59 O.S. 2021, Section 161.12a, is  
19 hereby repealed.

20 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.  
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