

From: [Robert Reed](#)
To: [Vaillancourt, Penny](#)
Subject: Re: LD 1220 Amendment
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 7:43:54 PM

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Good evening,

I'll try as best as my memory serves me as it's been 9 months since we submitted. A bit of history may help.

Our initial bill was pieced together using best language from other states and after discussion with the MVMA they gave commentary on what concerns they had so the amended bill was submitted with the changes made. Unfortunately, despite making the changes and providing those changes to MVMA well in advance of the public hearing, they chose to testify based on the original bill. Looking back and with all that has occurred since, I am no longer as surprised by that decision as I was at that time.

As to our amended bill, a few of the differences to reconcile that might help - I am trying to match up the bills side by side before flying out, so if I miss anything it may be Weds before I can provide further clarification, but this should allow a good start.

1. We chose to change from "dogs and equids" to "animals" as the title to better encompass that the training provided and the licensure reflected "animals" based on comments and questions during the public hearing. The legislative committee can be the decision maker on the final title however it becomes a moot point in my eyes if the definition of the "animal chiropractic practitioner" will now include additional language to specify the licensing or endorsement on the chiropractic license is limited only to those types of animals they were trained on during that AVCA or IVCA course work. (I assume rulemaking will have to get a list from those schools and then someone will maintain or audit it over time to ensure it reflects current training). The additional language as to training related to animals trained on already appears elsewhere in the legislative version on the second page 3A so it may not need to be here at all.

2. Animal definition appears to be spelled out in Title 32, which we were unaware of, so the Legislative version is fine to use.

3. Part of "animal chiropractic" beginning with "spinal adjustments are done by hand" could be viewed as simply explanatory and are not in the legislative version, and likely not required. We accept removing that last line.

4. Part of animal chiropractic care speaks to what the bill does NOT include - and we did not have anything speaking to that. While we could argue this seems unnecessary given previous language speaking to manipulative and/or soft tissue therapy only, if it needs to remain we will not oppose that inclusion.

5. Practice agreement - this was added by the legislative committee at the suggestion of Rep.

Mastraccio of Sanford if I recall and was suggested based on several other bills the committee had struggled with needing similar provisions. We agree to the language being added, however we need to make it clear this practice agreement does not mean a referral is required, the practice agreement is to collaborate and consult between both teams when questions arise regarding an animal. The only issue our doctors raised with this is our doctors might have practice agreements with local vets but see an animal whose vet is not local, and the local vets may not wish to provide their opinion on an animal they are not or have not treated. Humans often see chiropractors closer to their employment and not always closer to their home where their vet may practice. A minor question, but one we would appreciate understanding how the vet group would feel should the situation occur. Again the business relationship is one that should foster better care and more collaboration between the two groups. The other question from our group is what to do if the vets simply refuse to have business agreements with the chiropractor licensed to provide services - as written this would completely halt licensing.

6. Information on data collected from the pet owner prior to seeing the pet and statements included in that document signed by the pet owner is fine, I suspect we would in rulemaking create a sample document with the vet group that would be appropriate (standardization is best). Language may differ in the two versions but intent is the same.

7. 3C mentions reporting of contagious disease but it does not mention potential abuse of an animal by its owner or caretaker, that reporting is required of vets and we will need to add it here as well. It does not seem to exist in the legislative version.

That should get you started. I trust Colleen as she has been helpful on other bills in the past so I suspect most of this is wordsmithing and trying to meet the legislative committee's intent.

I have asked my group to help create a better understanding of how to evaluate versus diagnosing that we should have next week by Weds for you and we are asking other states if they have Codes of ethics for these.

Thanks for all the work on this one, I truly hope this is helpful

Bob

On Fri, Jan 30, 2026 at 5:17 PM Vaillancourt, Penny <Penny.Vaillancourt@maine.gov> wrote:

Hi Bob,

I was hoping you could shed some light on your organization's position on the committee's amendment versus what you submitted as part of the materials for the stakeholder meetings.

Can you share any additional information about the MCA's position on the attached amendment so that I can incorporate it into our discussion next Friday?

Thank you!

Penny

Penny Vaillancourt, Director

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation

Dept. of Professional and Financial Regulation

(207) 441-7153

penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov

www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/

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Robert Reed, Executive Director
Maine Chiropractic Association - "Maine's Voice for Chiropractic"
2024 Chiro Congress Association of the Year

58 Albert Street
Lewiston ME 04240

[\(207\) 622-5421](tel:(207)622-5421) (cell)

[\(207\) 782-5482](tel:(207)782-5482) (fax)

See our website at www.mainechiro.com