



Janet T. Mills
Governor

**Maine Department of Professional
& Financial Regulation
Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation**



Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

LD 1220 Stakeholder Report
Submitted on February 9, 2026 to the
Joint Standing Committee on
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Background:

On June 10, 2025, the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services (HCIFS) sent a letter to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation (DPFR) requesting that DPFR convene a stakeholder group to evaluate the committee's draft amendment to LD 1220, An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids. Further, the committee requested that the evaluation be consistent with the sunrise review criteria (identified in both Title 5, section 12015 and Title 32, Chapter 1-A, subchapter 2) and share findings and recommendations for the committee's consideration (**See letter Appendix 1**).

Under Maine law, a sunrise review is a formal process used by policymakers, in part, to assess proposals that include a substantial expansion of regulation of a regulated professional or occupational group. In this instant case, a formal sunrise review criteria was not completed. Rather, a stakeholder process was used to collect, review and evaluate data specific to how other states regulate such practices, identify the minimum training and examination requirements necessary to protect the public, and consider collaborative agreements or alternative ways in which coordination of animal patient care could be established between chiropractors and veterinarians. To that end, the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (OPOR) convened a stakeholder group, and this report summarizes that process, including reporting out areas of stakeholder consensus and areas requiring further discussion as the Committee continues to consider the merits of this bill.

Process

OPOR staff requested stakeholder participation from two professional associations, the Maine Chiropractic Association [MCA] and the Maine Veterinary Medical Association [MVMA]), members of the Boards of Chiropractic Licensure and Veterinarian Medicine, and individuals who previously expressed an interest in participating. Section 8 of the report identifies those who attended meetings scheduled on January 23, 2026, January 30, 2026, and February 6, 2026. Notice of the meetings, meeting materials and how to participate remotely and in person were emailed to the group, as well posted to the respective licensure board's websites. In advance of the first meeting, OPOR staff requested licensing data and professional association information, proposed amendments to further clarify the intent of the draft committee amendment, regulatory data from states that have passed similar expansions of scope, and identification of any specialized trainings or examinations commensurate with the expanded scope to help identify minimum standards to ensure public protection.

Findings and Recommendations

OPOR is not making independent findings or recommendations as part of this report. Rather, it is reporting back on the stakeholder process in which the MCA and the MVMA found common ground noting that the only remaining unresolved issue is how best to structure animal care collaboration between a chiropractor and a veterinarian. OPOR staff was transparent with stakeholders that this

report would not reflect all technical aspects of a sunrise review analysis or a full report of stakeholder discussions, but that it would rely on the proponents and opponents to supplement this report by communicating directly with the Committee given the legislative session deadlines.

Below is a summary of the information collected, reviewed and discussion at the stakeholder meetings:

1. Data on group.

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (OPOR) Licensing Data:

- 395 actively licensed chiropractors
- 1099 actively licensed veterinarians

Professional Association Information:

- MCA - 182 members
- MVMA - 581 members

Geographic practice data in Maine

- See attached MCA data (**Appendix 2**)

2. Specialized skill; public health; safety; welfare.

There is consensus among the stakeholder participants that minimum educational and examination standards are necessary to ensure competency in expanding the authority for licensed chiropractors to treat animals. There is also consensus that the public should be made aware of chiropractors who have met the minimum standards to perform the expanded scope of practice by virtue of an additional licensure credential (certification or practice authority issued by the Board of Chiropractic Licensure).

Potential harm to animals if not regulated includes:¹

- Unnecessary and harmful chiropractic treatments performed on animals at request of animal owners.
- Undetected diseases and/or medical conditions present at time of chiropractic treatment which may compromise overall health of an animal (contraindicators).
- Lack of contagious, infectious and zoonotic disease control training.²

¹ OPOR complaint data shows that four complaints were filed between 1996 and 2011 that were closed and likely referred to the Office of the Maine Attorney General for lack of jurisdiction by both the Board of Chiropractic Licensure and the Board of Veterinarian Medicine.

² U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Facts About Diseases that Can Spread Between Animals and People," accessed 02/09/26 at <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/diseases/index.html>.

Post graduate training programs granting certification in animal chiropractic care are available to both licensed chiropractors and licensed veterinarians. A request was made to have a representative from one of the training programs provide an overview of the certification program to the stakeholder group but the representative was unavailable. Below are nationally recognized organizations that grant accreditation to providers and issue certifications to graduates:

- International Veterinary Chiropractic Association (IVCA)
Link: <https://ivca.de/ivca-accredited-courses/>
- American Veterinarian Chiropractic Association (AVCA)
Link: <https://www.animalchiropractic.org/avca-approved-post-graduate-programs/>

According to the AVCA³, accreditation is granted to providers of basic animal chiropractic programs that meet, in part, the following requirements:

- Each program is required to provide a minimum of 210 certified hours
- Program admits both licensed veterinarians and chiropractors
- Basic program must provide 210 certified hours and graduates must be competent in common activities described by the Professional Practice Analysis of the AVCA⁴

AVCA provides initial certification to graduates who complete an accredited training program and successfully pass a practical and written examination.⁵ A review of the curriculum content of one of the providers, Options for Animals – College of Animal Chiropractic,⁶ identifies the following competency areas: Anatomy and Biomechanics, Applied Functional Neurology, Animal Chiropractic Diagnosis, Animal Chiropractic Adjusting Techniques, Management of the Animal Chiropractic Patient, Chiropractic Sciences, Veterinary Sciences, History and Philosophy of Animal Chiropractic, Ethics and Legalities, and Current Research.

3. Cost; benefit analysis and service availability.

A cost benefit analysis was not conducted, and it is unknown if the expansion of scope would increase the availability of services. This initiative, as reported to the stakeholder group, is not brought forward as an access to animal care issue, rather it is at the request of two chiropractors who are enrolled in a training program and wish to perform animal chiropractic services.

³ AVCA accreditation: <https://www.animalchiropractic.org/avca-approved-post-graduate-programs/>

⁴ AVCA practice analysis: <https://www.animalchiropractic.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/AVCA-PPA-2019.pdf>

⁵ AVCA certification requirements: : <https://www.animalchiropractic.org/steps-to-cert/>

⁶Options for Animals curriculum: <https://optionsforanimals.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Essentials-in-Animal-Chiropractic-Course-Catalog-Oct-2025.pdf>

4. Existing laws and regulations.

As noted in information provided by DPFR at the bill's public hearing and work session, if the Board of Chiropractic Licensure or the Board of Veterinarian Medicine received a complaint alleging that a chiropractor was performing unlicensed care on animal patients, then the respective board would investigate and refer the matter of unlicensed practice to the Office of the Maine Attorney General. However, if this proposal were to move forward then the Board of Chiropractic Licensure would have jurisdiction to investigate allegations of incompetent or unprofessional conduct of chiropractors licensed to perform animal chiropractic care.

5. Other states.

Robert Reed of the MCA provided the following response to a request for information on how other states are regulating chiropractic animal care: **(Appendix 3)**

See attached document "LD 1220 State by State Breakdown" which provides a list as updated as currently possible given many states are in the same or similar process as Maine. Nine states have adopted direct access animal chiropractic legislation to date, twenty-five more are in process of direct access legislation and 13 other states already allow it through referral or under supervision. Those states with direct access are:

1. Oklahoma in 2010
2. Nebraska in 2013
3. Colorado in 2018
4. Missouri in 2018
5. Ohio in 2019
6. Utah in 2020
7. Kentucky 2023
8. Tennessee in 2025
9. New Hampshire in 2025

A request was also made for quantitative data specific to states who have authorized the expanded scope to determine the number of chiropractors providing chiropractic animal care, the number of animals receiving such care, and the number of adverse event reports. The response from Robert Reed of the MCA identified significant challenges in providing that data. However, Mr. Reed offered the following with respect to Maine licensed chiropractors:

In Maine, we are aware of less than ten licensed chiropractors who have either completed the education and certification program, are actively working on certification, are already certified in other states or are interested in certification should the legislation pass. That does not represent a definitive number, but rather an indication that this is not a large number of doctors looking to work with animals but a small caring group.

6. Response to Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment - LD 1220 “An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids.”

The MCA and the MVMA provided proposed changes to the HCIFS committee’s draft amendment, and after a thorough discussion at the stakeholder meetings areas of consensus and areas requiring further review by the HCIFS committee were identified as summarized below.

Areas of consensus:

- a. Bill title:
 - i. Title should reflect scope of practice and will defer to legislative staff to make those changes.
- b. Definitions section:
 - i. Revise Section B “animal chiropractic care” to read: means the evaluation and treatment of an animal’s vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through the manual spinal and joint manipulation of the musculoskeletal system and excludes medical diagnosis and systemic disease treatment.
 - ii. Add a “evaluation” definition to read: means a comprehensive clinical assessment and physical examination to assess the animal’s musculoskeletal health, focusing on posture, gait, and movement patterns. A chiropractor providing animal chiropractic care must refer animal care to a licensed veterinarian for imaging, laboratory work, or other diagnostic testing if they suspect underlying conditions exist. **(Note: this is proposed OPOR language and not reflective of stakeholder discussion which will require further review by HCIFS Committee.)**
- c. Certification requirement section:
 - i. Clarify Section 2.A. to require chiropractors obtain initial certification from the Animal Chiropractic Certification Commission (ACCC)⁷ demonstrating successful completion of an accredited basic chiropractic animal training program and successful passage of written and practical examinations accredited by the AVCA, IVCA or successor organizations, or basic chiropractic animal training programs and examinations pre-approved the Board.

⁷ ACCC certification: <https://accc-chiro.com/diplomate/>

- ii. Revise Section 2.B to increase the continuing education hours from 20 to 22 as a condition to renew the expanded authority to practice animal chiropractic care. Clarify that at least 2 hours must be in animal welfare training leaving the existing 2 hours of infection control. Strike the word “diagnosis” and replace with “evaluation.”
- d. Authorization section:
 - i. Clarify Section 3.B.2 and/or 3.B.4 to include an affirmative statement that a chiropractor who is providing animal chiropractic care is not authorized to diagnose medical conditions of an animal for which treatment is sought.
 - ii. Add language to Section 3.C. (or new section) to include animal welfare reporting requirements pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 4018. See: <https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/7/title7sec4018.html>
 - iii. Revise Section 3.D. by striking “three” and replace with “seven” which is consistent with the number of years of existing recordkeeping standards.

Areas requiring further discussion:

Sections 1.C. and 3.A. include language specific to the use of a practice agreement among a chiropractor and a veterinarian which was the subject of much discussion at the stakeholder meetings. The MCA supports the amendment to require a practice agreement among the providers, but not the MVMA. The MVMA supports a referral-based practice model based on legal and ethical requirements of establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship in which they are responsible for animal care.

7. Additional Statutory Considerations Provided by OPOR staff.

- Amend disciplinary action pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 503-B. to include:
 - 6. Animal chiropractic care. Failure to follow this chapter and rules adopted by the Board when providing animal chiropractic care.**
- Add statutory reporting requirements.
 - A chiropractor must report to the Board within 72-hours of obtaining knowledge an animal death occurring within 48 hours of receiving animal chiropractic care and activation of emergency services or transport to another provider during the course of providing care. The information must include date, time, animal owner and patient information, procedure, description of the occurrence.
- Require consultation with the Maine Board of Veterinarian Medicine in adopting routine technical rules to fully implement this section.

8. List of stakeholder participants/attendees identified to OPOR:

Penny Vaillancourt, Director, OPOR
Randy Down, Assistant Attorney General
Nicole Sawyer, Assistant Attorney General
Representative Robert A. Foley, Maine State Legislature (LD 1220 bill sponsor)
Colleen McCarthy-Reid, Esq., Principal Analyst, Maine State Legislature
Robert Reed, Executive Director, Maine Chiropractic Association
Katherine Soverel, Executive Director, Maine Veterinary Medicine Association
Dr. Casey Cole, Maine Veterinarian Medicine Association
Maine Veterinarian Medicine Association
Dr. Mark Laney, Member, Maine Board of Chiropractic Licensure
Dr. Charmaine Brown, Member, Maine Board of Veterinarian Medicine
Dr. Donald Hoenig, Member, Maine Board of Veterinarian Medicine
Dr. Richard French, State Veterinarian
Dr. Lilly Helmer
Dr. Frank Buggia
Dr. Janelle Tirrell,
Sara Vanderwood, Consultant, Maine Street Solutions
Jay Nutting, Consultant, Maine Street Solutions
Cheryl Timberlake

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 HCIFS Committee Request
Appendix 2 MCA Maine Geographic Data
Appendix 3 MCA Response to Data Request
Appendix 4 Stakeholder Meeting Materials January 23, 2026
Appendix 5 Stakeholder Meeting Materials January 30, 2026
Appendix 6 Stakeholder Meeting Materials February 6, 2026

SENATE

DONNA BAILEY, DISTRICT 31, CHAIR
JOSEPH M. BALDACCI, DISTRICT 9
DAVID G. HAGGAN, DISTRICT 10

COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, PRINCIPAL LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
EDNA CAYFORD, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

KRISTI MICHELE MATHIESON, KITTERY, CHAIR
POPPY ARFORD, BRUNSWICK
ANNE-MARIE MASTRACCIO, SANFORD
MICHELLE NICOLE BOYER, CAPE ELIZABETH
SALLY JEANE CLUCHEY, BOWDOINHAM
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ROLF A. OLSEN, JR., RAYMOND
PAUL R. FLYNN, ALBION
MARYGRACE CAROLINE CIMINO, BRIDGTON

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

June 10, 2025

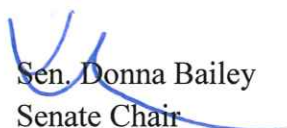
Joan Cohen
Commissioner
Department of Professional and Financial Regulation
35 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0035

Dear Commissioner Cohen:

We are writing to follow up with regard to our April 24th letter requesting that the Commissioner conduct an independent assessment of the proposal to certify licensed chiropractors to provide animal chiropractic care pursuant to the sunrise review requirements in Title 5, section 12015 and Title 32, chapter 1-A, subchapter 2. After further discussions with your staff, the committee would like to withdraw the request and instead ask that you convene a stakeholder group to evaluate the proposal consistent with the criteria for a sunrise review and make any findings and recommendations for the committee's consideration.

As you know, the committee has carried over the bill to the Second Regular Session. We request that the stakeholder group complete its work in a timely manner so that you may report its findings and recommendations to the committee no later than January 15, 2026 so the committee can take final action on the bill before the end of the Second Regular Session. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or our legislative analyst, Colleen McCarthy Reid.

Sincerely,


Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair


Rep. Kristi Michele Mathieson
House Chair

cc: Penny Vaillancourt, Deputy Commissioner
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

SENATE

DONNA BAILEY, DISTRICT 31, CHAIR
JOSEPH M. BALDACCI, DISTRICT 9
DAVID G. HAGGAN, DISTRICT 10

COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, PRINCIPAL LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
EDNA CAYFORD, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

KRISTI MICHELE MATHIESON, KITTERY, CHAIR
POPPY ARFORD, BRUNSWICK
ANNE-MARIE MASTRACCIO, SANFORD
MICHELLE NICOLE BOYER, CAPE ELIZABETH
SALLY JEANE CLUCHEY, BOWDOINHAM
ROBERT A. FOLEY, WELLS *
JOSHUA MORRIS, TURNER
ROLF A. OLSEN, JR., RAYMOND
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MARYGRACE CAROLINE CIMINO, BRIDGTON

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

April 24, 2025

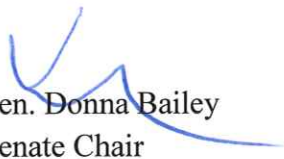
Joan Cohen
Commissioner
Department of Professional and Financial Regulation
35 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0035

Dear Commissioner Cohen:

Pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12015 and Title 32, chapter 1-A, subchapter 2, the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services requests an independent assessment pursuant to the sunrise review requirements of the proposal to certify licensed chiropractors to provide animal chiropractic care. For the purposes of this review, the committee has attached a draft committee amendment of the proposal. Please prepare the assessment based on the attached draft amendment using the evaluation criteria set forth in the law.

We ask that you submit completed assessment to the committee no later than January 15, 2026 so the committee can take final action on LD 1220 before the end of the Second Regular Session. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or our legislative analyst, Colleen McCarthy Reid.

Sincerely,


Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair


Rep. Kristi Michele Mathieson
House Chair

cc: Penny Vaillancourt, Deputy Commissioner
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

LD 1220
Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPF for Sunrise Review

DRAFT COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:
LD 1220, An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §456 is enacted to read:

§456. Animal chiropractic care

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Animal" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 1.

B. "Animal chiropractic care" means the evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through spinal, joint, or musculoskeletal manipulative therapy or soft tissue therapy. "Animal chiropractic care" does not include the performing of surgery; the dispensing or administering of medications, drugs or biologics; or the performance of any traditional veterinary care and diagnosis unless the individual is licensed as a veterinarian pursuant to Title 32, chapter 71-A.

C. "Practice agreement" means a document agreed to by a licensee certified by the board to provide animal chiropractic care and a veterinarian that states the veterinarian will be available to the licensee for collaboration or consultation with regard to the licensee's animal chiropractic care.

2. Certification to perform animal chiropractic care. Except as provided in subsection 8, a person may not perform animal chiropractic care on an animal in this State unless the following requirements are met.

A. The board shall certify a person licensed under this chapter to perform animal chiropractic care if the licensee has successfully completed a course of instruction in animal chiropractic care with not less than 210 hours of instruction provided by:

- (1) The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or its successor organization;
- (2) The International Veterinary Chiropractic Association or its successor organization; or
- (3) An organization equivalent to the organizations identified in paragraphs A and B that is approved by the board.

B. After receiving an initial certification from the board under paragraph A, the licensee must successfully complete at least 20 hours of continuing education prior to each renewal of the licensee's license that is specific to the diagnosis and treatment of animals, including a 2-hour course on contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases in this State and other locations that might affect a licensee's animal patients.

3. Authorization to perform animal chiropractic care. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board pursuant to subsection 2 may perform animal chiropractic care on a conscious animal in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

**Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPFR for Sunrise Review**

A. A licensee may perform animal chiropractic care on an animal only to types of animals on which the licensee has received training and as long as the licensee has a practice agreement with an active veterinarian. A licensee shall submit the practice agreement to the board for approval and the agreement must be kept on file at the main location of the licensee's practice and be made available to the board or the board's representative upon request. Upon any change in the parties to the practice agreement or other substantive change in the practice agreement, the licensee shall submit the revised practice agreement to the board for approval. Under a practice agreement, a veterinarian must be accessible at all times for consultation or collaboration and consultation or collaboration may occur through electronic means and does not require the physical presence of veterinarian who is a party to the agreement at the time or place that the animal chiropractic care is provided.

B. Prior to providing animal chiropractic care to an animal, the licensee must obtain a completed application for care form for each animal signed by the animal's owner, owner's agent, or another individual responsible for the animal. At a minimum, the application for care form must include the following:

(1) A statement that the licensee is not a licensed veterinarian and may not maintain primary responsibility for the animal's care;

(2) A statement that animal chiropractic care is not intended to replace traditional veterinary care and is considered an alternative therapy to be used concurrently and in conjunction with traditional veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian;

(3) A statement whether or not the animal has had a veterinarian-client-patient relationship as described in section 4877 with a licensed veterinarian within the past 12 months;

(4) statement whether or not a licensed veterinarian has provided a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal for which animal chiropractic care is sought, and if so, a documentation of the specific diagnosis; and

(5) A statement authorizing the licensee to provide animal chiropractic care to the animal.

C. If a licensee suspects that the animal has a contagious disease required to be reported under state law, the licensee shall notify the animal's veterinarian and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, division of animal and plant health.

D. A licensee shall maintain for at least three years a medical record for each animal provided animal chiropractic care, including a copy of the signed application for care form for each animal. Upon request, the licensee shall provide the medical record to the board and to the animal's veterinarian within 2 business days.

4. Use of title. A person licensed under this chapter may not use the title "animal chiropractor" or hold themselves out to be an "animal chiropractor" unless the licensee is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care under this section.

5. Malpractice insurance. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care shall at all times maintain malpractice insurance specific to animal chiropractic care.

6. List of licensees certified to provide animal chiropractic care. The board shall make available on its publicly accessible website a list of all licensees certified to provide animal chiropractic care under

**Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPFR for Sunrise Review**

this section. The board shall update the list as necessary but not less frequently than quarterly to ensure that the information provided to the public is not outdated.

7. Rules. The board may adopt rules to implement this section as necessary. Prior to adopting any rules pursuant to this subsection relating to the standards of care for an animal, the board shall consult with the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

8. Direct supervision of veterinarian. A licensed chiropractor providing care to an animal in the presence of and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian is not required to be certified to provide animal chiropractic care pursuant to this section.

9. Practice of veterinary medicine; liability. This section does not restrict a licensed veterinarian from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to chapter 71-A. A veterinarian who has an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship with an animal as described in section 4877 is not liable for any acts or omissions of a licensed chiropractor certified under this section who provides animal chiropractic care.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4860, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Licensed chiropractor certified to perform animal chiropractic care. A chiropractor licensed under chapter 9 performing animal chiropractic care in accordance with the requirements of section 456.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment authorizes a chiropractor licensed in this State to provide chiropractic care to dogs and equids as long as the licensed chiropractor is certified to perform animal chiropractic care and meets other conditions specified in the bill, including a requirement to enter into a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed veterinarian.

Appendix 2

	DC Licenses	Census	Census per DC
All In State Licenses	348	1,405,012	4,037
Androscoggin	30	115,272	3,842
Aroostook	11	66,776	6,071
Cumberland	115	313,809	2,729
Franklin	7	30,902	4,415
Hancock	18	56,946	3,164
Kennebec	34	128,461	3,778
Knox	8	40,981	5,123
Lincoln	7	36,491	5,213
Oxford	5	60,039	12,008
Penobscot	29	156,840	5,408
Piscataquis	4	17,432	4,358
Sagadahoc	7	37,582	5,369
Somerset	5	51,338	10,268
Waldo	9	40,617	4,513
Washington	5	31,383	6,277
York	54	220,143	4,077



January 16, 2026

Penny Vaillancourt, Director

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation
Dept. of Professional and Financial Regulation

Director Vaillancourt,

This document will include responses to your requests and reflects the best of our abilities within the limited time to any questions you have submitted regarding the Chiropractic side of the discussion.

We welcome the dialogue and look forward to the stakeholders' meetings leading to final resolution of LD 1220 as put forth by the Chiropractic community.

Respectfully,

Robert Reed, Executive Director

Maine Chiropractic Association

Question 1. How many active licensed chiropractors and veterinarians are there in Maine? (OPOR will provide number of active licenses).

The MCA utilized the online database at OPOP on January 13th which provided a list of 388 active licenses as of 1/1/2026. (The download occasionally misses one or two) This includes 45 Out of State Chiropractors who may be occasional visitors to Maine, visiting instructors or other unique situations but are not actively practicing on a regular basis. We also found one additional license still in process for 2026 due to a question on Continuing Education that we expect to be resolved shortly.

Question 2. Where in Maine (geographically) are chiropractors and veterinarians practicing (please provide data by town or county when possible)?

Using the same database query as referenced in Question 1, I am attaching a spreadsheet with three tabs.

The first tab indicates the practice location of the Chiropractor – most match licensing address, but a few are office versus home address licensing may have on file,

The second tab indicates the county breakdown of the practice locations and as an added reference we have included state census data for 2025 in each county.

The third tab is a listing of active licenses who are not practicing actively in Maine; however, they maintain that license.

Question 3. What associations represent each of the practitioners and how many members do they have? a. Chiropractors b. Veterinarians

The Maine Chiropractic Association is the only organized association representing Chiropractic in Maine. Of the 343 In state practicing Chiropractors, the MCA represents 182 as active association members (53%). As a courtesy the MCA maintains communication with an includes nonmembers in all education events and keeps nonmembers informed on all essential information regarding the industry.

Question 4. Does the Maine Chiropractic Association have additional proposed amendments to further clarify the intent of the draft committee amendment dated

The MCA is satisfied with the draft committee amendment that has been presented and look forward to finalizing this piece of legislation, assuming this is the draft that replaces “dogs and equids” with “animals.” The changes better reflect the structural questions and definitions requested by the legislative committee.

Question 5. Identify the states that have expanded chiropractic practice to include the treatment of animals (dogs, equines, etc.) and include regulations of same.

See attached document “LD 1220 State by State Breakdown.” which provides a list as updated as currently possible given many states are in the same or similar process as Maine. Nine states have adopted direct access animal chiropractic legislation to date, twenty-five more are in process of direct access legislation and 13 other states already allow it through referral or under supervision. Those states with direct access are.

1. Oklahoma in 2010
2. Nebraska in 2013
3. Colorado in 2018
4. Missouri in 2018
5. Ohio in 2019
6. Utah in 2020
7. Kentucky 2023
8. Tennessee in 2025
9. New Hampshire 2025

Question 6. In states with expanded scope for chiropractors, please provide quantitative data that shows the number of licensed chiropractors who became authorized to perform under the expanded scope of practice within the first 5 years of enactment. b. The number of animal patients who accessed treatment from chiropractors with expanded authorities within first 5 years of enactment. d. The number and type of adverse event reports regarding the procedures related to expanded scope of practice from initial enactment to date. e. Please provide any other quantitative data that you believe is relevant to this discussion.

As to the number of licensed chiropractors who became authorized in the first five years – this would be extremely difficult to produce for each state. This data would require inquiries into each individual doctor to find when they first began. What we can provide is that on average there are only about thirty-five doctors per state who acquire this additional training and licensure. Animal chiropractors can be found on search engines including [Doctor search - American Veterinary Chiropractic Association \(AVCA\)](#) and [Find a Veterinary Chiropractor - International Veterinary Chiropractic Association](#) the two associations representing the profession.

In Maine, we are aware of less than ten licensed chiropractors who have either completed the education and certification program, are actively working on certification, are already certified in other states or are interested in certification should the legislation pass. That does not represent a definitive number, but rather an indication that this is not a large number of doctors looking to work with animals but a small caring group.

We also cannot provide any data on the number of animals or animal chiropractic encounters in other states without a significant investment in time and money and we refer you back to the small volume of chiropractic doctors providing the care at this time. As to the related question of adverse events, we are unaware of any adverse events in any state where licensure has been granted and are attaching letters from two major chiropractic malpractice carriers Chiro Secure and NCMIC both stating that to date they have not had a single claim filed for animal care.

As to quantitative data, we note that despite claims to the contrary, we have been unable to identify a single complaint or claim within Maine chiropractic licensing records that reference the care or treatment of an animal. We encourage the licensing authority to independently verify this information and advise the stakeholder group and the legislative committee as this matter moves forward. We remain concerned that inaccurate or unsupported information may be presented by others that contradicts the absence of such findings in the available records.

Question 7. Identify the specialized training and/or examination(s) necessary to ensure commensurate with the scope of practice procedures anticipated to ensure competency in ensuring public protection.

Attached you will find an explanation of the education and certification for animal chiropractic licensure under both the IVCA and AVCA programs titled “LD 1220 Animal Chiropractic Education”. These line up with the legislation proposed by the MCA. For those who are unfamiliar with the program it is important to understand that the curriculum is designed to have chiropractor and veterinarians in the same classes taking the same course load and learning together and at times from each other.

The goal of the MCA has always been a pathway for those doctors wishing to provide care for animals, in a safe, well-trained manner. From day one we engaged the Maine Veterinary Medicine Association as a partner looking for their suggestions along the way. We anticipate continuing education utilizing those same veterinarians may excel at. We look forward to a robust discussion.

DC Not allowed to Treat Animals By Law:

Alabama (vets only)

Iowa (vets only)

New York (vets only)

West Virginia (vets only) (Currently working on Legislation)

Direct-immediate supervision for licensed DC's

Arizona -

Arkansas

Louisiana

Mississippi

New Mexico

North Dakota

Vermont

Indirect supervision/referral

Missouri

Idaho

Illinois

Nevada

Oregon

Wisconsin

Legislation in Process:

Alaska

Connecticut (Currently working on Legislation)

Washington DC

Georgia (Currently working on Legislation)

Florida - (Currently working on Legislation)

Minnesota (Currently working on Legislation)

Hawaii

Maine (Currently working on Legislation)

Michigan (Currently working on Legislation)

Massachusetts (Currently working on Legislation)

Montana

New Jersey

North Carolina (Currently working on Legislation)

Pennsylvania (Currently working on Legislation)

Rhode Island

South Dakota (Currently working on Legislation)

South Carolina (Currently working on Legislation)

Texas (Currently working on Legislation)

Virginia (Currently working on Legislation)

Washington (Currently working on Legislation)

Wyoming (Currently working on Legislation)

Legislation in Process: (continued)

California (Currently working on Legislation)

Delaware (Currently working on Legislation)

Indiana (Currently working on Legislation)

Kansas (Currently working on Legislation)

Direct access

Colorado - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb18-239>

Missouri - <http://revisor.mo.gov/main/ViewChapter.aspx?chapter=340>

Ohio - <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4734.151>

Oklahoma - <https://oklahoma.gov/chiropractic/resources/animal-chiropractors.html>

Utah - <https://le.utah.gov/~2021/bills/sbillint/SB0114.htm>

Kentucky (march 2023, allied health prof, under vet practice act, take jurisprudence)

Nebraska - <https://www.nebraska.gov/nesos/rules-and-regs/regtrack/proposals/000000000001336.pdf>

Tennessee – <https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/114/Fiscal/FM1350.pdf>

New Hampshire - <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1766080>

UTAH - <https://le.utah.gov/~2021/bills/sbillint/SB0114.htm>

Chiropractic Physician Practice Act

R156-73-603. Standards for Practice of Animal Chiropractic.

In accordance with Subsection 58-28-307(12)(a), **a chiropractic physician practicing animal chiropractic shall have completed an animal chiropractic course approved by the American Chiropractic Veterinary Association (ACVA) or another course that is substantially equivalent to the ACVA course.**

58-28-307 Exemptions from chapter.

(12) (a) upon **written referral by a licensed veterinarian**, the practice of animal chiropractic by a

chiropractic physician licensed under Chapter 73, Chiropractic Physician Practice Act, who has completed an animal chiropractic course approved by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or the division

OHIO - <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4734.151>

Section 4734.151 | Animal chiropractic.

Effective:

November 22, 2020

Latest Legislation:

House Bill 151 - 133rd General Assembly

PDF:

[Download Authenticated PDF](#)

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Animal" means any living animal other than a human being.

(2) "Animal chiropractic" means the evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through spinal, joint, or musculo-skeletal manipulative therapy or soft tissue therapy.

Animal chiropractic does not include administering, selling, distributing, recommending, or providing advice regarding any of the following to restore or maintain the health of an animal: vitamins, minerals, phytonutrients, antioxidants, enzymes, glandular extracts, botanical substances, herbal therapies, homeopathic remedies, drugs that are available without a prescription, or durable and nondurable medical goods and devices.

(3) "Animal chiropractic practitioner" means a chiropractor licensed under this chapter who holds a current, valid certification from any of the following:

(a) The American veterinary chiropractic association, unless otherwise specified in rule;

(b) The international veterinary chiropractic association, unless otherwise specified in rule;

(c) The college of animal chiropractors, unless otherwise specified in rule;

(d) Any other credentialing organization that the state chiropractic board specifies in rules adopted under this section.

(4) "Licensed veterinarian" means an individual licensed by the state veterinary medical licensing board to practice veterinary medicine.

(B) Except as provided in division (C)(2) of this section, no chiropractor who is not an animal chiropractic practitioner shall do either of the following:

(1) Practice animal chiropractic;

(2) Represent that the person is, or hold the person's self out to the public as, an animal chiropractic practitioner.

(C)(1) All of the following apply regarding a chiropractor who is an animal chiropractic practitioner:

(a) The chiropractor shall register with the state chiropractic board in a manner specified by the board;

(b) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic only to types of animals on which the chiropractor has received training;

(c) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic without supervision by a licensed veterinarian;

(d) The chiropractor shall require completion of an application for care form in accordance with division (D) of this section;

(e) The chiropractor shall maintain for at least three years a medical record, including the application for care form, for each animal evaluated or treated and on request shall provide the medical record to the animal's veterinarian in a timely fashion.

(2) A chiropractor who is not an animal chiropractic practitioner may practice animal chiropractic only in accordance with division (F) of section [4741.19](#) of the Revised Code.

(D) Prior to providing animal chiropractic in accordance with this section, an animal chiropractic practitioner shall require the animal's owner, owner's agent, or another person responsible for the animal to complete and sign an application for care form that contains at least the following:

(1) A statement that the chiropractor is not a licensed veterinarian and cannot maintain primary responsibility for the animal's care;

(2) A statement that animal chiropractic is not intended to replace traditional veterinary care and is considered an alternative therapy to be used concurrently and in conjunction with traditional veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian;

(3) A question as to whether the animal has been seen by a licensed veterinarian within the past twelve months;

(4) A question as to whether a licensed veterinarian has provided a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal for which animal chiropractic is sought, and if so, a request to specify the diagnosis;

(5) A statement authorizing the chiropractor to provide animal chiropractic to the animal.

(E) The board shall maintain and make available to the public a list of animal chiropractic practitioners who are registered with the board pursuant to this section.

(F) This section does not restrict a licensed veterinarian from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine, as defined in Chapter 4741. of the Revised Code, or prevent any other individual from lawfully acting in a manner authorized under that chapter.

An animal's veterinarian is not liable for any actions or omissions of an animal chiropractic practitioner who provides animal chiropractic in accordance with this section.

(G)(1) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the board may adopt any rules it considers necessary to implement this section. The following rules, if adopted, shall be adopted in consultation with the state veterinary medical licensing board in accordance with division (G)(2) of this section:

(a) Any rule regarding standards of medicine or care for an animal;

(b) Any rule to remove or specify additional credentialing organizations for purposes of division (A)(3)(d) of this section.

(2)(a) Prior to filing a rule identified in division (G)(1)(a) or (b) of this section with the joint committee on agency rule review, the board shall in a timely fashion provide the full text of the proposed rule, amendment, or rule to be rescinded to the state veterinary medical licensing board. The state veterinary medical licensing board shall informally vote on the proposed rule, amendment, or rule to be rescinded at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Regardless of whether the vote is affirmative or not, the state chiropractic board may proceed in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

COLORADO - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb18-239>

SB18-239

Animal Chiropractic Education And Reporting Requirements

Concerning a licensed chiropractor's ability to perform animal chiropractic on an animal patient.

Session:

2018 Regular Session

Subject:

Agriculture

Bill Summary

Chiropractors - animal chiropractic adjustment - exemption from veterinary medical clearance requirement - continuing education - reporting requirements. The act exempts a licensed chiropractor performing an animal chiropractic adjustment from a requirement that the licensed chiropractor first obtain a veterinary medical clearance if the licensed chiropractor has successfully completed 9 hours of course work related to contagious, infectious, and zoonotic diseases. The act also requires that continuing education requirements for renewed registration in animal chiropractic include a 2-hour course on Colorado incidence rates for contagious, infectious, and zoonotic diseases and requires a licensed chiropractor performing animal chiropractic to notify the state veterinarian and an animal patient's licensed veterinarian if the licensed chiropractor suspects that the animal patient has a contagious, infectious, or zoonotic disease. Finally, the act amends the definition of "animal chiropractic" to refer to performing chiropractic adjustment of dogs and equids, where current law defines it as performing chiropractic adjustment of dogs and horses, and defines "equid" to include

horses, donkeys, mules, and zebras.

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as enacted.)

OKLAHOMA - <https://oklahoma.gov/chiropractic/resources/animal-chiropractors.html>

140:15-8-1 Certificate of a chiropractor and animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment

- (a) A chiropractic physician may engage in practice of animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment if certified to do so by the Board. A licensed chiropractic physician may provide chiropractic treatment to an animal without being certified in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment if the animal has been referred to the chiropractic physician by a licensed veterinarian.
- (b) “Animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment” means treatment that includes vertebral subluxation complex (vcs) and spinal manipulation of nonhuman vertebrates. The term “animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment” shall not be construed to allow the:
 1. use of x-rays
 2. performing surgery
 3. dispensing or administering of medications, or
 4. performance of tradition veterinary care.
- (c) The Board is charged by statute to establish educational criteria for certification standards in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment. According, the Board states that the following educational criteria will be applied to any licensed chiropractic physician who requests certification in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment, The criteria shall include education and training in:
 1. Anatomy, including sacropelvic, thoracolumbar, cervical and extremity;
 2. Equine and canine adjustments;
 3. Topographical laboratory;
 4. Chiropractic basis, including history and systems review, subluxation, and vertebral subluxation complex;
 5. Veterinary basics, including anatomy as it relates to restraint and positioning, physiology, and pharmacology, metabolic and contagious diseases and lameness;
 6. Chiropractic and neurological diagnosis;
 7. Radiology and biomechanics;
 8. Proficiency in basic technique;

9. Pathology;
 10. Podiatry, including lower limb dissection;
 11. Chiropractic and veterinary philosophy;
 12. Professional ethics and legalities; and
 13. Identification of animals.
- (d) Any licensed chiropractic physician requesting certification in animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment shall have completed no less than 210 hours of education and training education as set forth above.
 - (e) Any chiropractic physician engaged in the practice of animal chiropractic shall maintain complete and accurate records and/or patient files in their office for a minimum of three years.



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



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Penny Vaillancourt
Director

Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

LD 1220 STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
January 23, 2026 Agenda

Physical Location:

Androscoggin Conference Room at the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Gardiner Annex,
76 Northern Avenue, Gardiner, ME

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

Virtual Zoom Link:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/83827688122?pwd=mFiOasgfjdVgsaDT4ojmiWa0ByyEcx.1>

Meeting ID: 838 2768 8122

Passcode: 85810698

The Zoom link for virtual participation and observation is also posted on the following board websites:

Board of Chiropractic Licensure:

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/chiropractic-licensure>

Board of Veterinarian Licensure:

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-veterinary-medicine>

Contact:

Penny Vaillancourt
Phone: 207-624-8505 / Fax: 207-624-8690
TTY Users Call Maine Relay 711
Email: penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov

9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcome & Introductions
	Meeting Ground Rules
	Remote Participation Policy
9:15 - 9:30 AM	Overview of LD 1220 and Draft Committee Amendment
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Overview of Chiropractors' Position on LD 1220
	Overview of Veterinarians' Position on LD 1220
10:30 – 10:50 AM	Data from Stakeholders
10:50 AM	Next Steps
11:00 AM	Adjourn



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1220

H.P. 795

House of Representatives, March 20, 2025

An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FOLEY of Wells.
Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and
Representatives: FLYNN of Albion, MASON of Lisbon, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of
Turner, OLSEN of Raymond, POMERLEAU of Standish.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §456** is enacted to read:

3 **§456. Animal chiropractic care**

4 **1. Equid defined.** For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise
5 indicates, "equid" means an animal from the family Equidae, including, but not limited to,
6 a horse, donkey, mule or zebra.

7 **2. Certification to perform animal chiropractic care.** The board shall certify a
8 person licensed under this chapter to perform animal chiropractic care if the licensee has
9 successfully completed a 210-hour course of instruction in animal chiropractic care
10 approved by the board.

11 After receiving an initial certification from the board, the licensee must successfully
12 complete at least 20 hours of continuing education prior to each renewal of the licensee's
13 license that is specific to the diagnosis and treatment of animals, including a 2-hour course
14 on contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases in this State and other locations that might
15 affect a licensee's animal patients.

16 **3. Authorization to perform animal chiropractic care.** A person licensed under this
17 chapter who is certified by the board pursuant to subsection 2 may perform animal
18 chiropractic care on a conscious dog or equid in accordance with the requirements of this
19 subsection.

20 A. After a referral from a licensed veterinarian, a licensee may perform animal
21 chiropractic care on a dog or equid. The licensee shall submit an initiation of treatment
22 report to the primary veterinarian of the dog or equid within 7 days of providing animal
23 chiropractic care to that dog or equid.

24 B. If a licensee suspects that the dog or equid has a contagious disease required to be
25 reported under state law, the licensee shall notify the primary veterinarian and the
26 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, division of animal and plant
27 health.

28 C. A licensee may perform animal chiropractic care on a dog or equid without a referral
29 from a licensed veterinarian only upon completion of additional course work approved
30 by the State Board of Veterinary Medicine of at least 8 hours of instruction in
31 contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases and at least one hour of instruction in
32 animal chiropractic care jurisprudence.

33 **4. Malpractice insurance.** A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by
34 the board to perform animal chiropractic care shall at all times maintain malpractice
35 insurance specific to animal chiropractic care.

36 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4860, sub-§13** is enacted to read:

37 **13. Licensed chiropractor certified to perform animal chiropractic care.** A
38 chiropractor licensed under chapter 9 performing animal chiropractic care in accordance
39 with the requirements of section 456.

SUMMARY

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This bill authorizes a chiropractor licensed in this State to provide chiropractic care to dogs and equids as long as the licensed chiropractor is certified to perform animal chiropractic care and meets other conditions specified in the bill.

132nd Maine Legislature
LD 1220

An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat **Animals**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §456 is enacted to read:

§456. Animal chiropractic care

As used in this LD

- (a) "Animal" means any living animal other than a human being.
- (b) "Animal chiropractic" means the evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through spinal, joint, or musculoskeletal manipulative therapy or soft tissue therapy. Spinal adjustments are done by hand and provide a process that allows animals better communication within their nervous systems.
- (c) "Animal chiropractic practitioner" means a person licensed as a chiropractor by the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners and who holds a current, valid certification from any of the following: (1) The (AVCA) American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, unless otherwise specified by regulation. (2) The (IVCA) International Veterinary Chiropractic Association, unless otherwise specified by regulation. (3) Any other credentialing organization that the board specifies by regulation adopted under this article.
- (d) "Board" means the State Board of Chiropractic Licensing
- (e) "Licensed veterinarian" means a person licensed by the Veterinary Medical Board pursuant to the Veterinary Medicine Laws

1.. Certification to perform animal chiropractic care. The board shall certify a person licensed under this chapter to perform animal chiropractic care if the licensee has successfully completed and graduated from an AVCA or IVCA certified program of a minimum of 210 hours of course of instruction in animal chiropractic care approved by the Chiropractic Licensing Board.

After receiving an initial certification from the board, the licensee must successfully complete at least 20 hours of continuing education prior to each renewal of the licensee's license that is specific to the diagnosis and treatment of animals, including a 2-hour course on contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases in this State and other locations that might affect a licensee's animal patients.

Anyone not having that certification would be required to have supervision of a veterinarian.

3. Authorization to perform animal chiropractic care. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board pursuant to subsection 2 may perform animal chiropractic care on a conscious animal in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

- (a) A chiropractor who is not registered as an animal chiropractic practitioner by the board pursuant to this article shall not do either of the following if they are not under the supervision of a veterinarian: (1) Practice animal chiropractic. (2) Represent that the person is, or hold themselves out to the public as, an animal chiropractic practitioner.

132nd Maine Legislature
An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids
L.D.

(b) All of the following apply to a chiropractor who is an animal chiropractic practitioner: (1) The chiropractor shall register with the board as an animal chiropractic practitioner in a manner specified by the board. (2) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic only to types of animals on which the animal chiropractic practitioner has received training. (3) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic without supervision by a licensed veterinarian. (4) The chiropractor shall obtain a completed application for care form for each animal evaluated or treated

(c). (5) The chiropractor shall maintain for at least three years a medical record for each animal evaluated or treated that includes the application for care form and, on request, shall provide the medical record to the animal's veterinarian in a timely fashion.

(c) Before providing animal chiropractic in accordance with this section, a chiropractor shall require the animal's owner, owner's agent, or another person responsible for the animal to complete and sign an application for care form that contains at least the following: (1) A statement that the chiropractor is not a licensed veterinarian and cannot maintain primary responsibility for the animal's care. (2) A statement that animal chiropractic is not intended to replace traditional veterinary care and is considered an alternative therapy to be used concurrently and in conjunction with traditional veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian. (3) A question as to whether the animal has been seen by a licensed veterinarian within the past 12 months. (4) A question as to whether a licensed veterinarian has provided a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal for which animal chiropractic is sought, and if so, a request to specify the diagnosis. (5) A statement authorizing the chiropractor to provide animal chiropractic to the animal.

(d) The board shall maintain and make available to the public a list of animal chiropractic practitioners who are registered with the board pursuant to this section.

(e) This section does not restrict a licensed veterinarian from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to the Veterinary Practice Act or prevent any other individual from lawfully acting in a manner pursuant to the scope of practice pursuant to this division.

(f) An animal's veterinarian is not liable for any actions or omissions of an animal chiropractic practitioner who provides animal chiropractic in accordance with this section.

(g) (1) An animal chiropractic practitioner shall comply with all regulations of the board applicable to chiropractors, unless otherwise specified by the board by regulation. (2) The board may adopt regulations necessary to implement this article. The following regulations, if adopted, shall be adopted in consultation with the Veterinary Medical Board in accordance with paragraph (2): (A) Regulations regarding standards of medicine or care for an animal. (B) Regulations to remove or specify additional credentialing organizations for purposes of subdivision (c) of Section 1070. (3) When considering adopting, amending, or repealing a regulation, the board shall, in a timely manner, provide to the Veterinary Medical Board the full text of the regulation proposed to be adopted, amended, or repealed. The Veterinary Medical Board shall informally vote on whether to adopt, amend, or repeal the regulation at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Regardless of whether the vote is affirmative or not, the State Board of Chiropractic Licensing may proceed with the adoption, amendment, or repeal of the regulation in accordance with the current law.

(h) A chiropractor who works under the supervision of a veterinarian is authorized to practice animal chiropractic without being registered by the board pursuant to this section.

(i) A chiropractor providing care in an office setting must maintain a separate space for animal care with its own entrance and exam rooms.

132nd Maine Legislature
An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids
L.D.

4. If a licensee suspects that the animal has a contagious disease required to be reported under state law, the licensee shall notify the primary veterinarian and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, division of animal and plant health.

5. **Malpractice insurance.** A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care shall at all times maintain malpractice insurance specific to animal chiropractic care.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4860, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Licensed chiropractor certified to perform animal chiropractic care. A chiropractor licensed under chapter 9 performing animal chiropractic care in accordance with the requirements of section 456.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes a chiropractor licensed in this State to provide chiropractic care to animals as long as the licensed chiropractor is certified to perform animal chiropractic care and meets other conditions specified in the bill.

DPFR/OPOR
LD 1220 Stakeholder Group Meeting

January 23, 2026 Questions

Below are questions we plan to discuss at the January 23rd meeting. While we want to hear from all parties, we appreciate that not all parties will have answers to each question. When possible, please share your answers to the questions with OPOR staff in advance of the meeting.

To the extent possible, please coordinate with your respective stakeholders to provide a single response. Whenever possible, we ask that you quantify your response with data. In addition to the questions below, please feel free to share additional quantitative data not captured in the questions below.

1. How many active licensed chiropractors and veterinarians are there in Maine? (OPOR will provide number of active licenses).
2. Where in Maine (geographically) are chiropractors and veterinarians practicing (please provide data by town or county when possible)?
3. What associations represent each of the practitioners and how many members do they have? a. Chiropractors b. Veterinarians
4. Does the Maine Chiropractic Association have additional proposed amendments to further clarify the intent of the draft committee amendment dated
5. Identify the states that have expanded chiropractic practice to include the treatment of animals (dogs, equines, etc.) and include regulations of same.
6. In states with expanded scope for chiropractors, please provide quantitative data that shows:
 - a. the number of licensed chiropractors who became authorized to perform under the expanded scope of practice within the first 5 years of enactment.
 - b. The number of animal patients who accessed treatment from chiropractors with expanded authorities within first 5 years of enactment.
 - d. The number and type of adverse event reports regarding the procedures related to expanded scope of practice from initial enactment to date.
 - e. Please provide any other quantitative data that you believe is relevant to this discussion.
7. Identify the specialized training and/or examination(s) necessary to ensure commensurate with the scope of practice procedures anticipated to ensure competency in ensuring public protection.

LD 1220 Stakeholder Group

Primary Components of Original Bill and Sponsor's Amendment to LD 1220

Draft Committee Amendment

Section 1:

Provides definitions to the following terms: Animal, Animal chiropractic care, and Practice agreement.

Identifies the certification requirements to perform animal chiropractic care.

Identifies limitations when performing animal chiropractic care to training requirements and a practice agreement with a licensed veterinarian who must be accessible at all times for consultation and collaboration. Requires that prior to providing care, a completed form must be completed by the animal's owner identifying certain statements and assertions of care. Including reporting, recordkeeping and malpractice insurance requirements.

Provides an exception to the certification requirements for chiropractors providing care to an animal in the presence of and under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Section 2. Defines licensed chiropractor certified to perform animal chiropractic care.

§60-J. Evaluation criteria

Pursuant to Title 5, section 12015, subsection 3, any professional or occupational group or organization, any individual or any other interested party, referred to in this section as the "applicant group," that proposes regulation of any unregulated professional or occupational group or substantial expansion of regulation of a regulated professional or occupational group shall submit with the proposal written answers and information pertaining to the evaluation criteria enumerated in this section to the appropriate committee of the Legislature. The technical committee, the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation, referred to in this subchapter as the "commissioner," and the joint standing committee, before it makes its final recommendations to the full Legislature, also shall accept answers and information pertaining to the evaluation criteria from any party that opposes such regulation or expansion and from any other interested party. All answers and information submitted must identify the applicant group, the opposing party or the interested party making the submission and the proposed regulation or expansion of regulation that is sought or opposed. The commissioner may develop standardized questions designed to solicit information concerning the evaluation criteria. The preauthorization evaluation criteria are: [PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

1. Data on group. A description of the professional or occupational group proposed for regulation or expansion of regulation, including the number of individuals or business entities that would be subject to regulation, the names and addresses of associations, organizations and other groups representing the practitioners and an estimate of the number of practitioners in each group; [PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

2. Specialized skill. Whether practice of the profession or occupation proposed for regulation or expansion of regulation requires such a specialized skill that the public is not qualified to select a competent practitioner without assurances that minimum qualifications have been met; [PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

3. Public health; safety; welfare. The nature and extent of potential harm to the public if the profession or occupation is not regulated, the extent to which there is a threat to the public's health, safety or welfare and production of evidence of potential harm, including a description of any complaints filed with state law enforcement authorities, courts, departmental agencies, other professional or occupational boards and professional and occupational associations that have been lodged against practitioners of the profession or occupation in this State within the past 5 years; [PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

4. Voluntary and past regulatory efforts. A description of the voluntary efforts made by practitioners of the profession or occupation to protect the public through self-regulation, private certifications, membership in professional or occupational associations or academic credentials and a statement of why these efforts are inadequate to protect the public; [PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

5. Cost; benefit. The extent to which regulation or expansion of regulation of the profession or occupation will increase the cost of goods or services provided by practitioners and the overall cost-effectiveness and economic impact of the proposed regulation, including the indirect costs to consumers; [PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

6. Service availability of regulation. The extent to which regulation or expansion of regulation of the profession or occupation would increase or decrease the availability of services to the public; [PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

7. Existing laws and regulations. The extent to which existing legal remedies are inadequate to prevent or redress the kinds of harm potentially resulting from nonregulation and whether regulation

can be provided through an existing state agency or in conjunction with presently regulated practitioners;

[PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

8. Method of regulation. Why registration, certification, license to use the title, license to practice or another type of regulation is being proposed, why that regulatory alternative was chosen and whether the proposed method of regulation is appropriate;

[PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

9. Other states. A list of other states that regulate the profession or occupation, the type of regulation, copies of other states' laws and available evidence from those states of the effect of regulation on the profession or occupation in terms of a before-and-after analysis;

[PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

10. Previous efforts. The details of any previous efforts in this State to implement regulation of the profession or occupation;

[PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

11. Mandated benefits. Whether the profession or occupation plans to apply for mandated benefits;

[PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

12. Minimal competence. Whether the proposed requirements for regulation exceed the standards of minimal competence and what those standards are; and

[PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

13. Financial analysis. The method proposed to finance the proposed regulation and financial data pertaining to whether the proposed regulation can be reasonably financed by current or proposed licensees through dedicated revenue mechanisms.

[PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 686, §2 (NEW).

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



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Penny Vaillancourt
Director

Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

LD 1220 STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
January 30, 2026 Agenda

Physical Location:

Androscoggin Conference Room at the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Gardiner Annex,
76 Northern Avenue, Gardiner, ME

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Zoom Link:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/82485723074?pwd=hkFZryBOvb3aBpXaNlxDjldbPKFJrg.1>

Meeting ID: 824 8572 3074

Passcode: 76772473

The Zoom link for virtual participation and observation is also posted on the following board websites:

Board of Chiropractic Licensure:

https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/,_professions/chiropractic-licensure

Board of Veterinarian Licensure:

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-veterinary-medicine>

Contact: Penny Vaillancourt
Phone: 207-624-8506 / Fax: 207-624-8690
TTY Users Call Maine Relay 711
Email: penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov



- 9:00 – 9:15 AM** Welcome & Introductions
- Meeting Ground Rules
 - Remote Participation Policy
- 9:15 -10:30 AM** Stakeholder Discussion Items
- Review proposed definitions of “animal” and “animal chiropractic”
 - Review proposed exemptions to licensure
 - Review Ethical Codes of Conduct (ACA and AVMA)
 - Revisit referral network, infection control and welfare reporting discussion
- 10:30 – 11:15 AM** Presentation(s) - Tentative
- Review Curriculum of Animal Chiropractic Certification Programs
- 11:15 – 11:45 AM** Open Forum Discussion
- 12:00 PM** Adjourn

Maine Veterinary Medical Association

97A Exchange Street, Suite 305
Portland, ME 04101
Phone: 800-448-2772
www.mainevetmed.org
info@mainevetmed.org



Comparison of different specialties human focus versus animal

Professional Role	Human Specialist Training Focus	Veterinary Specialist Training Focus	Why Human Specialists Do NOT Work on Animals (Even Within their Specialty)
Radiologist	Human anatomy, disease imaging, and interpretation only	Species-specific anatomy, disease, and imaging techniques	Vast anatomical differences, disease presentations, and imaging protocols differ by species; misinterpretation risks harm
Neurologist	Human nervous system anatomy, diseases, and treatment	Veterinary neuroanatomy, species-specific diagnostics and therapies	Different neuroanatomy and clinical signs; treatment varies widely; cross-species care risks misdiagnosis and injury
Surgeon	Human surgical anatomy, techniques, anesthesia, and recovery	Species-specific surgical anatomy, procedures, anesthesia	Anatomical and physiological differences; anesthesia and drug responses vary; human surgical skills don't translate to animals safely
Chiropractor	Human musculoskeletal anatomy, manipulation, and clinical care	Veterinary medical training plus animal chiropractic techniques	Animal biomechanics differ radically; human chiropractic training doesn't cover animal anatomy, pathology, or handling
Optometrist	Human eye anatomy and vision correction	Veterinary ophthalmology and species-specific eye care	Eye anatomy and diseases vary; treatment and diagnostics are species-specific; human optometry skills don't transfer safely
Ophthalmologist	Medical and surgical eye care for humans	Veterinary medical and surgical eye care for animals	Species differences in eye structure and pathology; surgical techniques differ; unsafe for humans to treat animals without vet training

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Comparative education for veterinary animal chiropractor vs. human animal chiropractor



Area of Training	Veterinarian (DVM) + Animal Chiropractic Course	Human Chiropractor + Animal Chiropractic Course	Why This Matters
Animal Anatomy	600–1,000+ hours vet school + 30–50 hours course	30–50 hours total (course only)	Veterinarians have 20–30× more anatomy training before course, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species-specific detail • Full cadaver dissection • Neuro & visceral anatomy
Physiology	300–500 hours vet school + 10–20 hours course	10–20 hours total	Vets understand normal and abnormal animal function
Disease / Pathology	500–700+ hours vet school + 5–15 hours course	5–15 hours total	Chiropractors lack training to detect hidden systemic disease
Diagnostics	Hundreds of hours including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiology • Lab interpretation • Neurologic localization 	Minimal to none	Safe treatment requires diagnostic competence
Clinical Training	2+ years supervised clinical rotations + hands-on chiropractic labs	Short technique-focused labs only	No training in managing complications or systemic disease
Total Animal Medical Education	Thousands of hours + chiropractic certification	210 hours total animal-focused training	Chiropractic course is a supplement, not a substitute for veterinary training

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Summary of Animal Diseases that can present as muscle and joint stiffness



Disease / Condition	Species	Cause	Chiropractic Solutions?	Survival Without Vet Care	Zoonotic?	Reportable in Maine?
Tetanus	Horses, Cattle, Dogs	<i>Clostridium tetani</i> neurotoxin	No — systemic toxin disease; chiropractic will not help	Days-weeks (usually fatal without treatment)	No	No
Equine Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy (PSSM)	Horses	Genetic/metabolic	Yes — symptom management only	Chronic, lifelong	No	No
Rhabdomyolysis (Exertional Myopathy)	Horses, Dogs	Muscle damage from exertion	Yes — symptom support only	Days-weeks (risk of severe complications)	No	No
Torn Muscle (Muscle Rupture/Strain)	Various	Trauma or overuse	No — chiropractic can worsen acute tears	Variable, dependent on severity	No	No
Hypocalcemia (Milk Fever)	Dairy Cattle	Low blood calcium	No — metabolic disease; no benefit from chiropractic	Hours-days (medical emergency)	No	No
Hypomagnesemia (Grass Tetany)	Cattle	Low magnesium	No — metabolic disease; no benefit from chiropractic	Hours-days (medical emergency)	No	No
Botulism	Horses, Cattle, Birds	<i>Clostridium botulinum</i> toxin	No — neurotoxin disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Days-weeks (high mortality)	No	Yes

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Disease / Condition	Species	Cause	Chiropractic Solutions?	Survival Without Vet Care	Zoonotic?	Reportable in Maine?
Myositis (Infectious/Immune-mediated)	Various	Infection or autoimmune	No — chiropractic may worsen inflammation	Variable, often days-weeks	Depends on cause	Depends on cause
Laminitis (Secondary stiffness)	Horses	Hoof inflammation	Yes — can support secondary musculoskeletal stiffness only	Variable, chronic	No	No
Broken Bones (Fractures)	Various	Trauma	No — chiropractic can worsen fractures	Days-weeks (depends on fracture severity)	No	No
Torn Tendons / Ligaments	Horses, Dogs	Trauma or overuse	No — chiropractic can worsen tendon/ligament injuries	Variable, depends on severity	No	No
Colic (Abdominal Pain)	Horses	Various (GI obstruction, etc.)	No — emergency medical condition; chiropractic contraindicated	Hours-days (can be fatal if untreated)	No	No
Kidney Disease (Renal failure)	Various	Chronic disease, toxins	No — internal disease; chiropractic no benefit	Weeks-months (progressive)	No	No
Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM)	Horses	<i>Sarcocystis neurona</i> protozoa	No — neurologic infection; chiropractic contraindicated	Weeks-months (without treatment)	No	No



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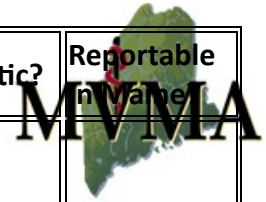
Disease / Condition	Species	Cause	Chiropractic Solutions?	Survival Without Vet Care	Zoonotic?	Reportable in Maine
Wobbler Syndrome	Horses, Dogs	Cervical spinal cord compression	No — spinal cord disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Variable, progressive	No	No
Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy	Horses	Equine herpesvirus-1	No — viral neurologic infection; chiropractic contraindicated	Days-weeks (highly fatal untreated)	No	Yes
Canine Distemper Virus	Dogs	Viral infection	No — viral neurologic disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Weeks (often fatal untreated)	No	No
Rabies	Various mammals	Rabies virus	No — fatal viral neurologic disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Days (fatal)	Yes	Yes
Neosporosis	Cattle, Dogs	<i>Neospora caninum</i> protozoa	No — protozoal neurologic disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Variable	No	No
Tick Paralysis	Dogs, Horses, Cattle	Neurotoxin from tick saliva	No — toxin-mediated neurologic disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Days (recovery after tick removal)	No	No
Listeriosis (Circling Disease)	Ruminants	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	No — bacterial neurologic infection;	Days-weeks	Yes	Yes



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Disease / Condition	Species	Cause	Chiropractic Solutions?	Survival Without Vet Care	Zoonotic?	Reportable in Maine
			chiropractic contraindicated			
Granulomatous Meningoencephalitis (GME)	Dogs	Immune-mediated inflammation	No — immune neurologic disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Variable	No	No
Hydrocephalus	Dogs, Cats	Abnormal CSF accumulation	No — congenital neurologic disorder; chiropractic contraindicated	Variable	No	No
Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)	Dogs	Disc herniation	No — chiropractic can worsen spinal cord compression	Variable, progressive	No	No
Polyradiculoneuritis (Coons Tail Paralysis)	Dogs	Immune-mediated inflammation	No — immune neurologic disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Weeks-months	No	No
Muscular Dystrophy	Various	Genetic degenerative disease	No — genetic disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Variable, progressive	No	No
Hypothyroidism	Dogs	Thyroid deficiency	No — endocrine disease; chiropractic no benefit	Chronic	No	No



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Disease / Condition	Species	Cause	Chiropractic Solutions?	Survival Without Vet Care	Zoonotic?	Reportable in Maine
Electrolyte Imbalances	Various	Abnormal minerals	No — metabolic disease; chiropractic no benefit	Variable	No	No
Toxicities (organophosphates, heavy metals)	Various	Exposure to toxins	No — toxin-mediated disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Variable	Yes (some)	Yes (some)
Stroke (Cerebrovascular Accident)	Dogs, Cats	Vascular brain ischemia	No — neurologic vascular disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Variable	No	No
Neoplasia (Brain or Spinal Tumors)	Various	Tumor growth	No — neoplastic neurologic disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Variable	No	No
Strangles (<i>Streptococcus equi</i>)	Horses	Bacterial infection	No — infectious disease needing medical treatment	Days-weeks	Rare but Yes	Yes
Pseudorabies (Aujeszky's Disease)	Swine, Cattle, Other mammals	Suid herpesvirus (Aujeszky's virus)	No — fatal neurologic disease; chiropractic contraindicated	Days	Yes	Yes



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Survey on providing a referral for animal chiropractic care

After a physical exam and at the request of a client, would

you potentially be willing to provide a referral to a chiropractor

who has completed an accredited animal chiropractic training program?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	47.13%	41
No	33.33%	29
Unsure	19.54%	17
	Answered	87
	Skipped	0

Do you work at an emergency or urgent care facility?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	24.14%	21
No	75.86%	66
	Answered	87
	Skipped	0

Good evening,

Attached is the agenda for the next stakeholder meeting scheduled for Friday, January 30, 2026 at 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. I have not yet received information on whether a representative from either AVCA or the IVCA are able to provide a presentation on the certification program. However, I've included links for more information about the certification programs below:

<https://optionsforanimals.com/>

<https://www.animalchiropractic.org/avca-approved-post-graduate-programs/>

I have also included the national codes of ethics for review:

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/principles-veterinary-medical-ethics-avma>

<https://www.acatoday.org/about/code-of-ethics/>

As a reminder, participants can attend either in person (DPFR offices at 76 Northern Ave. Gardiner) or remotely using the Zoom platform. If you are attending remotely, you will be asked to identify your device by name so board staff can bring you into the meeting in a secure fashion. Below is the Zoom meeting information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/82485723074?pwd=hkFZryBOvb3aBpXaNlxDjldbPKFJrg.1>

Meeting ID: 824 8572 3074

Passcode: 76772473

Again, thank you for your willingness to participate and look forward to seeing you Friday.

Best,
Penny



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



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Penny Vaillancourt
Director

Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

**LD 1220 STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING
February 6, 2026 Agenda**

Physical Location:

Androscoggin Conference Room at the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Gardiner Annex,
76 Northern Avenue, Gardiner, ME

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Zoom Link:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/85149290419?pwd=nVF50CqPxtSlQJMTUYTPQhth1iFps3.1>

Meeting ID: 851 4929 0419

Passcode: 54059700

The Zoom link for virtual participation and observation is also posted on the following board websites:

Board of Chiropractic Licensure:

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/chiropractic-licensure>

Board of Veterinarian Licensure:

<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-veterinary-medicine>

Contact: Penny Vaillancourt
Phone: 207-624-8506 / Fax: 207-624-8690
TTY Users Call Maine Relay 711
Email: penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 9:00 – 9:15 AM | Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Ground Rules • Remote Participation Policy |
| 9:15 -10:00 AM | Stakeholder Discussion Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of HCIFS Committee Amendment • Review of MCA Amendment |
| 10:00 – 11:15 AM | Review and Discussion of Draft Report |
| 11:15 – 11:45 AM | Open Forum Discussion |
| 12:00 PM | Adjourn |

SENATE

DONNA BAILEY, DISTRICT 31, CHAIR
JOSEPH M. BALDACCI, DISTRICT 9
DAVID G. HAGGAN, DISTRICT 10

COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, PRINCIPAL LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
EDNA CAYFORD, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

KRISTI MICHELE MATHIESON, KITTERY, CHAIR
POPPY ARFORD, BRUNSWICK
ANNE-MARIE MASTRACCIO, SANFORD
MICHELLE NICOLE BOYER, CAPE ELIZABETH
SALLY JEANE CLUCHEY, BOWDOINHAM
ROBERT A. FOLEY, WELLS*
JOSHUA MORRIS, TURNER
ROLF A. OLSEN, JR., RAYMOND
PAUL R. FLYNN, ALBION
MARYGRACE CAROLINE CIMINO, BRIDGTON

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

June 10, 2025

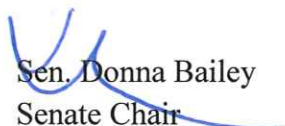
Joan Cohen
Commissioner
Department of Professional and Financial Regulation
35 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0035

Dear Commissioner Cohen:

We are writing to follow up with regard to our April 24th letter requesting that the Commissioner conduct an independent assessment of the proposal to certify licensed chiropractors to provide animal chiropractic care pursuant to the sunrise review requirements in Title 5, section 12015 and Title 32, chapter 1-A, subchapter 2. After further discussions with your staff, the committee would like to withdraw the request and instead ask that you convene a stakeholder group to evaluate the proposal consistent with the criteria for a sunrise review and make any findings and recommendations for the committee's consideration.

As you know, the committee has carried over the bill to the Second Regular Session. We request that the stakeholder group complete its work in a timely manner so that you may report its findings and recommendations to the committee no later than January 15, 2026 so the committee can take final action on the bill before the end of the Second Regular Session. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or our legislative analyst, Colleen McCarthy Reid.

Sincerely,


Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair


Rep. Kristi Michele Mathieson
House Chair

cc: Penny Vaillancourt, Deputy Commissioner
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

SENATE

DONNA BAILEY, DISTRICT 31, CHAIR
JOSEPH M. BALDACCI, DISTRICT 9
DAVID G. HAGGAN, DISTRICT 10

COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, PRINCIPAL LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
EDNA CAYFORD, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

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SALLY JEANE CLUCHEY, BOWDOINHAM
ROBERT A. FOLEY, WELLS *
JOSHUA MORRIS, TURNER
ROLF A. OLSEN, JR., RAYMOND
PAUL R. FLYNN, ALBION
MARYGRACE CAROLINE CIMINO, BRIDGTON

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

April 24, 2025

Joan Cohen
Commissioner
Department of Professional and Financial Regulation
35 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0035

Dear Commissioner Cohen:

Pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12015 and Title 32, chapter 1-A, subchapter 2, the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services requests an independent assessment pursuant to the sunrise review requirements of the proposal to certify licensed chiropractors to provide animal chiropractic care. For the purposes of this review, the committee has attached a draft committee amendment of the proposal. Please prepare the assessment based on the attached draft amendment using the evaluation criteria set forth in the law.

We ask that you submit completed assessment to the committee no later than January 15, 2026 so the committee can take final action on LD 1220 before the end of the Second Regular Session. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or our legislative analyst, Colleen McCarthy Reid.

Sincerely,


Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair


Rep. Kristi Michele Mathieson
House Chair

cc: Penny Vaillancourt, Deputy Commissioner
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

LD 1220
Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPF for Sunrise Review

DRAFT COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:
LD 1220, An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §456 is enacted to read:

§456. Animal chiropractic care

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Animal" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 1.

B. "Animal chiropractic care" means the evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through spinal, joint, or musculoskeletal manipulative therapy or soft tissue therapy. "Animal chiropractic care" does not include the performing of surgery; the dispensing or administering of medications, drugs or biologics; or the performance of any traditional veterinary care and diagnosis unless the individual is licensed as a veterinarian pursuant to Title 32, chapter 71-A.

C. "Practice agreement" means a document agreed to by a licensee certified by the board to provide animal chiropractic care and a veterinarian that states the veterinarian will be available to the licensee for collaboration or consultation with regard to the licensee's animal chiropractic care.

2. Certification to perform animal chiropractic care. Except as provided in subsection 8, a person may not perform animal chiropractic care on an animal in this State unless the following requirements are met.

A. The board shall certify a person licensed under this chapter to perform animal chiropractic care if the licensee has successfully completed a course of instruction in animal chiropractic care with not less than 210 hours of instruction provided by:

- (1) The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or its successor organization;
- (2) The International Veterinary Chiropractic Association or its successor organization; or
- (3) An organization equivalent to the organizations identified in paragraphs A and B that is approved by the board.

B. After receiving an initial certification from the board under paragraph A, the licensee must successfully complete at least 20 hours of continuing education prior to each renewal of the licensee's license that is specific to the diagnosis and treatment of animals, including a 2-hour course on contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases in this State and other locations that might affect a licensee's animal patients.

3. Authorization to perform animal chiropractic care. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board pursuant to subsection 2 may perform animal chiropractic care on a conscious animal in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

**Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPF for Sunrise Review**

A. A licensee may perform animal chiropractic care on an animal only to types of animals on which the licensee has received training and as long as the licensee has a practice agreement with an active veterinarian. A licensee shall submit the practice agreement to the board for approval and the agreement must be kept on file at the main location of the licensee's practice and be made available to the board or the board's representative upon request. Upon any change in the parties to the practice agreement or other substantive change in the practice agreement, the licensee shall submit the revised practice agreement to the board for approval. Under a practice agreement, a veterinarian must be accessible at all times for consultation or collaboration and consultation or collaboration may occur through electronic means and does not require the physical presence of veterinarian who is a party to the agreement at the time or place that the animal chiropractic care is provided.

B. Prior to providing animal chiropractic care to an animal, the licensee must obtain a completed application for care form for each animal signed by the animal's owner, owner's agent, or another individual responsible for the animal. At a minimum, the application for care form must include the following:

(1) A statement that the licensee is not a licensed veterinarian and may not maintain primary responsibility for the animal's care;

(2) A statement that animal chiropractic care is not intended to replace traditional veterinary care and is considered an alternative therapy to be used concurrently and in conjunction with traditional veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian;

(3) A statement whether or not the animal has had a veterinarian-client-patient relationship as described in section 4877 with a licensed veterinarian within the past 12 months;

(4) statement whether or not a licensed veterinarian has provided a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal for which animal chiropractic care is sought, and if so, a documentation of the specific diagnosis; and

(5) A statement authorizing the licensee to provide animal chiropractic care to the animal.

C. If a licensee suspects that the animal has a contagious disease required to be reported under state law, the licensee shall notify the animal's veterinarian and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, division of animal and plant health.

D. A licensee shall maintain for at least three years a medical record for each animal provided animal chiropractic care, including a copy of the signed application for care form for each animal. Upon request, the licensee shall provide the medical record to the board and to the animal's veterinarian within 2 business days.

4. Use of title. A person licensed under this chapter may not use the title "animal chiropractor" or hold themselves out to be an "animal chiropractor" unless the licensee is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care under this section.

5. Malpractice insurance. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care shall at all times maintain malpractice insurance specific to animal chiropractic care.

6. List of licensees certified to provide animal chiropractic care. The board shall make available on its publicly accessible website a list of all licensees certified to provide animal chiropractic care under

**Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPFR for Sunrise Review**

this section. The board shall update the list as necessary but not less frequently than quarterly to ensure that the information provided to the public is not outdated.

7. Rules. The board may adopt rules to implement this section as necessary. Prior to adopting any rules pursuant to this subsection relating to the standards of care for an animal, the board shall consult with the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

8. Direct supervision of veterinarian. A licensed chiropractor providing care to an animal in the presence of and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian is not required to be certified to provide animal chiropractic care pursuant to this section.

9. Practice of veterinary medicine; liability. This section does not restrict a licensed veterinarian from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to chapter 71-A. A veterinarian who has an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship with an animal as described in section 4877 is not liable for any acts or omissions of a licensed chiropractor certified under this section who provides animal chiropractic care.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4860, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Licensed chiropractor certified to perform animal chiropractic care. A chiropractor licensed under chapter 9 performing animal chiropractic care in accordance with the requirements of section 456.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment authorizes a chiropractor licensed in this State to provide chiropractic care to dogs and equids as long as the licensed chiropractor is certified to perform animal chiropractic care and meets other conditions specified in the bill, including a requirement to enter into a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed veterinarian.

LD 1220
Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPF for Sunrise Review

DRAFT COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:
LD 1220, An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §456 is enacted to read:

§456. Animal chiropractic care

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Animal" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 1.

B. "Animal chiropractic care" means the evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through spinal, joint, or musculoskeletal manipulative therapy or soft tissue therapy. "Animal chiropractic care" does not include the performing of surgery; the dispensing or administering of medications, drugs or biologics; or the performance of any traditional veterinary care and diagnosis unless the individual is licensed as a veterinarian pursuant to Title 32, chapter 71-A.

C. "Practice agreement" means a document agreed to by a licensee certified by the board to provide animal chiropractic care and a veterinarian that states the veterinarian will be available to the licensee for collaboration or consultation with regard to the licensee's animal chiropractic care.

2. Certification to perform animal chiropractic care. Except as provided in subsection 8, a person may not perform animal chiropractic care on an animal in this State unless the following requirements are met.

A. The board shall certify a person licensed under this chapter to perform animal chiropractic care if the licensee has successfully completed a course of instruction in animal chiropractic care with not less than 210 hours of instruction provided by:

- (1) The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or its successor organization;
- (2) The International Veterinary Chiropractic Association or its successor organization; or
- (3) An organization equivalent to the organizations identified in paragraphs A and B that is approved by the board.

B. After receiving an initial certification from the board under paragraph A, the licensee must successfully complete at least 20 hours of continuing education prior to each renewal of the licensee's license that is specific to the diagnosis and treatment of animals, including a 2-hour course on contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases in this State and other locations that might affect a licensee's animal patients.

3. Authorization to perform animal chiropractic care. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board pursuant to subsection 2 may perform animal chiropractic care on a conscious animal in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

**Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPFR for Sunrise Review**

A. A licensee may perform animal chiropractic care on an animal only to types of animals on which the licensee has received training and as long as the licensee has a practice agreement with an active veterinarian. A licensee shall submit the practice agreement to the board for approval and the agreement must be kept on file at the main location of the licensee's practice and be made available to the board or the board's representative upon request. Upon any change in the parties to the practice agreement or other substantive change in the practice agreement, the licensee shall submit the revised practice agreement to the board for approval. Under a practice agreement, a veterinarian must be accessible at all times for consultation or collaboration and consultation or collaboration may occur through electronic means and does not require the physical presence of veterinarian who is a party to the agreement at the time or place that the animal chiropractic care is provided.

B. Prior to providing animal chiropractic care to an animal, the licensee must obtain a completed application for care form for each animal signed by the animal's owner, owner's agent, or another individual responsible for the animal. At a minimum, the application for care form must include the following:

- (1) A statement that the licensee is not a licensed veterinarian and may not maintain primary responsibility for the animal's care;
- (2) A statement that animal chiropractic care is not intended to replace traditional veterinary care and is considered an alternative therapy to be used concurrently and in conjunction with traditional veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian;
- (3) A statement whether or not the animal has had a veterinarian-client-patient relationship as described in section 4877 with a licensed veterinarian within the past 12 months;
- (4) statement whether or not a licensed veterinarian has provided a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal for which animal chiropractic care is sought, and if so, a documentation of the specific diagnosis; and
- (5) A statement authorizing the licensee to provide animal chiropractic care to the animal.

C. If a licensee suspects that the animal has a contagious disease required to be reported under state law, the licensee shall notify the animal's veterinarian and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, division of animal and plant health.

D. A licensee shall maintain for at least three years a medical record for each animal provided animal chiropractic care, including a copy of the signed application for care form for each animal. Upon request, the licensee shall provide the medical record to the board and to the animal's veterinarian within 2 business days.

4. Use of title. A person licensed under this chapter may not use the title "animal chiropractor" or hold themselves out to be an "animal chiropractor" unless the licensee is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care under this section.

5. Malpractice insurance. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care shall at all times maintain malpractice insurance specific to animal chiropractic care.

6. List of licensees certified to provide animal chiropractic care. The board shall make available on its publicly accessible website a list of all licensees certified to provide animal chiropractic care under

**Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPFR for Sunrise Review**

this section. The board shall update the list as necessary but not less frequently than quarterly to ensure that the information provided to the public is not outdated.

7. Rules. The board may adopt rules to implement this section as necessary. Prior to adopting any rules pursuant to this subsection relating to the standards of care for an animal, the board shall consult with the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

8. Direct supervision of veterinarian. A licensed chiropractor providing care to an animal in the presence of and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian is not required to be certified to provide animal chiropractic care pursuant to this section.

9. Practice of veterinary medicine; liability. This section does not restrict a licensed veterinarian from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to chapter 71-A. A veterinarian who has an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship with an animal as described in section 4877 is not liable for any acts or omissions of a licensed chiropractor certified under this section who provides animal chiropractic care.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4860, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Licensed chiropractor certified to perform animal chiropractic care. A chiropractor licensed under chapter 9 performing animal chiropractic care in accordance with the requirements of section 456.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment authorizes a chiropractor licensed in this State to provide chiropractic care to dogs and equids as long as the licensed chiropractor is certified to perform animal chiropractic care and meets other conditions specified in the bill, including a requirement to enter into a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed veterinarian.

132nd Maine Legislature
LD 1220

An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat **Animals**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §456 is enacted to read:

§456. Animal chiropractic care

As used in this LD

- (a) "Animal" means any living animal other than a human being.
- (b) "Animal chiropractic" means the evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through spinal, joint, or musculoskeletal manipulative therapy or soft tissue therapy. Spinal adjustments are done by hand and provide a process that allows animals better communication within their nervous systems.
- (c) "Animal chiropractic practitioner" means a person licensed as a chiropractor by the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners and who holds a current, valid certification from any of the following: (1) The (AVCA) American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, unless otherwise specified by regulation. (2) The (IVCA) International Veterinary Chiropractic Association, unless otherwise specified by regulation. (3) Any other credentialing organization that the board specifies by regulation adopted under this article.
- (d) "Board" means the State Board of Chiropractic Licensing
- (e) "Licensed veterinarian" means a person licensed by the Veterinary Medical Board pursuant to the Veterinary Medicine Laws

1.. Certification to perform animal chiropractic care. The board shall certify a person licensed under this chapter to perform animal chiropractic care if the licensee has successfully completed and graduated from an AVCA or IVCA certified program of a minimum of 210 hours of course of instruction in animal chiropractic care approved by the Chiropractic Licensing Board.

After receiving an initial certification from the board, the licensee must successfully complete at least 20 hours of continuing education prior to each renewal of the licensee's license that is specific to the diagnosis and treatment of animals, including a 2-hour course on contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases in this State and other locations that might affect a licensee's animal patients.

Anyone not having that certification would be required to have supervision of a veterinarian.

3. Authorization to perform animal chiropractic care. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board pursuant to subsection 2 may perform animal chiropractic care on a conscious animal in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

- (a) A chiropractor who is not registered as an animal chiropractic practitioner by the board pursuant to this article shall not do either of the following if they are not under the supervision of a veterinarian: (1) Practice animal chiropractic. (2) Represent that the person is, or hold themselves out to the public as, an animal chiropractic practitioner.

132nd Maine Legislature
An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids
L.D.

(b) All of the following apply to a chiropractor who is an animal chiropractic practitioner: (1) The chiropractor shall register with the board as an animal chiropractic practitioner in a manner specified by the board. (2) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic only to types of animals on which the animal chiropractic practitioner has received training. (3) The chiropractor may provide animal chiropractic without supervision by a licensed veterinarian. (4) The chiropractor shall obtain a completed application for care form for each animal evaluated or treated

(c). (5) The chiropractor shall maintain for at least three years a medical record for each animal evaluated or treated that includes the application for care form and, on request, shall provide the medical record to the animal's veterinarian in a timely fashion.

(c) Before providing animal chiropractic in accordance with this section, a chiropractor shall require the animal's owner, owner's agent, or another person responsible for the animal to complete and sign an application for care form that contains at least the following: (1) A statement that the chiropractor is not a licensed veterinarian and cannot maintain primary responsibility for the animal's care. (2) A statement that animal chiropractic is not intended to replace traditional veterinary care and is considered an alternative therapy to be used concurrently and in conjunction with traditional veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian. (3) A question as to whether the animal has been seen by a licensed veterinarian within the past 12 months. (4) A question as to whether a licensed veterinarian has provided a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal for which animal chiropractic is sought, and if so, a request to specify the diagnosis. (5) A statement authorizing the chiropractor to provide animal chiropractic to the animal.

(d) The board shall maintain and make available to the public a list of animal chiropractic practitioners who are registered with the board pursuant to this section.

(e) This section does not restrict a licensed veterinarian from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to the Veterinary Practice Act or prevent any other individual from lawfully acting in a manner pursuant to the scope of practice pursuant to this division.

(f) An animal's veterinarian is not liable for any actions or omissions of an animal chiropractic practitioner who provides animal chiropractic in accordance with this section.

(g) (1) An animal chiropractic practitioner shall comply with all regulations of the board applicable to chiropractors, unless otherwise specified by the board by regulation. (2) The board may adopt regulations necessary to implement this article. The following regulations, if adopted, shall be adopted in consultation with the Veterinary Medical Board in accordance with paragraph (2): (A) Regulations regarding standards of medicine or care for an animal. (B) Regulations to remove or specify additional credentialing organizations for purposes of subdivision (c) of Section 1070. (3) When considering adopting, amending, or repealing a regulation, the board shall, in a timely manner, provide to the Veterinary Medical Board the full text of the regulation proposed to be adopted, amended, or repealed. The Veterinary Medical Board shall informally vote on whether to adopt, amend, or repeal the regulation at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Regardless of whether the vote is affirmative or not, the State Board of Chiropractic Licensing may proceed with the adoption, amendment, or repeal of the regulation in accordance with the current law.

(h) A chiropractor who works under the supervision of a veterinarian is authorized to practice animal chiropractic without being registered by the board pursuant to this section.

(i) A chiropractor providing care in an office setting must maintain a separate space for animal care with its own entrance and exam rooms.

132nd Maine Legislature
An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids
L.D.

4. If a licensee suspects that the animal has a contagious disease required to be reported under state law, the licensee shall notify the primary veterinarian and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, division of animal and plant health.

5. **Malpractice insurance.** A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care shall at all times maintain malpractice insurance specific to animal chiropractic care.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4860, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Licensed chiropractor certified to perform animal chiropractic care. A chiropractor licensed under chapter 9 performing animal chiropractic care in accordance with the requirements of section 456.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes a chiropractor licensed in this State to provide chiropractic care to animals as long as the licensed chiropractor is certified to perform animal chiropractic care and meets other conditions specified in the bill.

**Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPCR for Sunrise Review**

**DRAFT COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:
LD 1220, An Act to Allow ~~Chiropractors to Treat~~ Dogs and Equids**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 32 MRS §456 is enacted to read:

§456. Animal chiropractic care

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Animal" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 1.

B. "Animal chiropractic care" means the evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction through spinal, joint, or musculoskeletal manipulative therapy or soft tissue therapy. "Animal chiropractic care" does not include the performing of surgery; the dispensing or administering of medications, drugs or biologics; or the performance of any traditional veterinary care and diagnosis unless the individual is licensed as a veterinarian pursuant to Title 32, chapter 71-

A.

C. "Collaboration agreement" means a document agreed to by a licensee certified by the board to provide animal chiropractic care and a veterinarian that states the veterinarian will be available to the licensee for collaboration or consultation with regard to the licensee's animal chiropractic care.

2. Certification to perform animal chiropractic care. Except as provided in subsection 8, a person may not perform animal chiropractic care on an animal in this State unless the following requirements are met.

A. The board shall certify a person licensed under this chapter to perform animal chiropractic care if the licensee has successfully completed a course of instruction in animal chiropractic care with not less than 210 hours of instruction provided by:

- (1) The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association or its successor organization;
- (2) The International Veterinary Chiropractic Association or its successor organization; or
- (3) An organization equivalent to the organizations identified in paragraphs A and B that is approved by the board.

B. After receiving an initial certification from the board under paragraph A, the licensee must successfully complete at least 20 hours of continuing education prior to each renewal of the licensee's license that is specific to the diagnosis and treatment of animals, including a 2-hour course on contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases in this State and other locations that might affect a licensee's animal patients.

3. Authorization to perform animal chiropractic care. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board pursuant to subsection 2 may perform animal chiropractic care on a conscious animal in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

**Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPFR for Sunrise Review**

A. A licensee may perform animal chiropractic care on an animal only to types of animals on which the licensee has received training and as long as the licensee has a practice agreement with an active veterinarian. A licensee shall submit the practice agreement to the board for approval and the agreement must be kept on file at the main location of the licensee's practice and be made available to the board or the board's representative upon request. Upon any change in the parties to the practice agreement or other substantive change in the practice agreement, the licensee shall submit the revised practice agreement to the board for approval. Under a practice agreement, a veterinarian must be accessible at all times for consultation or collaboration and consultation or collaboration may occur through electronic means and does not require the physical presence of veterinarian who is a party to the agreement at the time or place that the animal chiropractic care is provided.

B. Prior to providing animal chiropractic care to an animal, the licensee must obtain a completed application for care form for each animal signed by the animal's owner, owner's agent, or another individual responsible for the animal. At a minimum, the application for care form must include the following:

- (1) A statement that the licensee is not a licensed veterinarian and may not maintain primary responsibility for the animal's care;
- (2) A statement that animal chiropractic care is not intended to replace traditional veterinary care and is considered an alternative therapy to be used concurrently and in conjunction with traditional veterinary care by a licensed veterinarian;
- (3) A statement whether or not the animal has had a veterinarian-client-patient relationship as described in section 4877 with a licensed veterinarian within the past 12 months;
- (4) statement whether or not a licensed veterinarian has provided a diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal for which animal chiropractic care is sought, and if so, a documentation of the specific diagnosis; and
- (5) A statement authorizing the licensee to provide animal chiropractic care to the animal.

C. If a licensee suspects that the animal has a contagious disease required to be reported under state law, the licensee shall notify the animal's veterinarian and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, division of animal and plant health.

D. A licensee shall maintain for at least three years a medical record for each animal provided animal chiropractic care, including a copy of the signed application for care form for each animal. Upon request, the licensee shall provide the medical record to the board and to the animal's veterinarian within 2 business days.

4. Use of title. A person licensed under this chapter may not use the title "animal chiropractor" or hold themselves out to be an "animal chiropractor" unless the licensee is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care under this section.

5. Malpractice insurance. A person licensed under this chapter who is certified by the board to perform animal chiropractic care shall at all times maintain malpractice insurance specific to animal chiropractic care.

6. List of licensees certified to provide animal chiropractic care. The board shall make available on its publicly accessible website a list of all licensees certified to provide animal chiropractic care under

**Draft Proposed HCIFS Committee Amendment
To Be Referred to DPFR for Sunrise Review**

this section. The board shall update the list as necessary but not less frequently than quarterly to ensure that the information provided to the public is not outdated.

7. Rules. The board may adopt rules to implement this section as necessary. Prior to adopting any rules pursuant to this subsection relating to the standards of care for an animal, the board shall consult with the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

8. Direct supervision of veterinarian. A licensed chiropractor providing care to an animal in the presence of and under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian is not required to be certified to provide animal chiropractic care pursuant to this section.

9. Practice of veterinary medicine; liability. This section does not restrict a licensed veterinarian from engaging in the practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to chapter 71-A. A veterinarian who has an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship with an animal as described in section 4877 is not liable for any acts or omissions of a licensed chiropractor certified under this section who provides animal chiropractic care.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4860, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Licensed chiropractor certified to perform animal chiropractic care. A chiropractor licensed under chapter 9 performing animal chiropractic care in accordance with the requirements of section 456.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment authorizes a chiropractor licensed in this State to provide chiropractic care to dogs and equids as long as the licensed chiropractor is certified to perform animal chiropractic care and meets other conditions specified in the bill, including a requirement to enter into a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed veterinarian.

DRAFT



SENATE

DONNA BAILEY, DISTRICT 31, CHAIR
JOSEPH M. BALDACCI, DISTRICT 9
DAVID G. HAGGAN, DISTRICT 10

COLLEEN MCCARTHY REID, PRINCIPAL LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
EDNA CAYFORD, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

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PAUL R. FLYNN, ALBION
MARYGRACE CAROLINE CIMINO, BRIDGTON

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

[add date]

Joan M. Cohen
Commissioner
Department of Professional and Financial Regulation
35 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0035
Via email: joan.cohen@maine.gov

Dear Commissioner Cohen:

Pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12015 and Title 32, chapter 1-A, subchapter 2, the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services requests an independent assessment pursuant to the sunrise review requirements of the proposal to certify licensed chiropractors to provide animal chiropractic care. For the purposes of this review, the committee has attached a draft committee amendment of the proposal. Please prepare the assessment based on the draft amendment using the evaluation criteria set forth in the law.

We ask that you submit completed assessment to the committee no later than January 15, 2026 so the committee can take final action on LD 1220 before the end of the Second Regular Session. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or our legislative analyst, Colleen McCarthy Reid.

Sincerely,

Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair

Rep. Kristi Michele Mathieson
House Chair

cc: Penny Vaillancourt, Deputy Commissioner
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

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

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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/

Notice: The information contained in this e-mail message is for general informational purposes only and is not intended as legal or business advice.

--

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

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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

From: [French, Richard](#)
To: [Vaillancourt, Penny](#)
Subject: RE: LD 1220 Chiropractic Animal Care - Stakeholder Meeting
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2026 3:07:32 PM

Penny:

I apologize. This is not a simple answer, which would be why this new law can be a challenge. Thus we can create a public health risk and animal health and welfare risk.

Respectfully,
RA French
Maine CVO

There are Reportable Animal Disease in Maine:

[Code of Maine Rules, Chapter 206, Section 001-206-5 - DISEASE CONTROL FOR ANIMALS AND BIRDS WITHIN THE STATE | Code of Maine Rules | Justia](#)

There are Reportable Disease Nationally, which Maine intends to adopt in a rule's revision in 2026.

[National List of Reportable Animal Diseases](#)

Then there is disease specific to Equines reportable to the Equine Disease Communications Center:

[Reportable Diseases | Equine Disease Communication Center](#)

Then there are guidelines regarding animal welfare issue for wich I provide a brief outline below:

MAINE ANIMAL WELFARE REPORTING CHEAT SHEET

Category / Issue	Examples / Signs	Who to Report	Urgency
Food & Water	No clean water, starvation, malnutrition	DACF (farm animals), ACO/police (pets)	Immediate if life-threatening
Shelter	Exposure to extreme weather, unsafe housing, no bedding	DACF / ACO / Maine SPCA	Immediate if unsafe
Health / Veterinary Care	Untreated illness/injury, chronic disease, unable to move/feed	DACF / ACO / Maine SPCA	Immediate if suffering
Hygiene / Sanitation	Filthy cages, feces/urine buildup, parasite infestation	DACF / ACO / Maine SPCA	Reportable as observed
Physical Abuse	Hitting, burning, mutilation, organized	Police / ACO / Maine SPCA	Immediate

	cruelty		
Overcrowding / Confinement	Too many animals, restricted movement, no social contact	DACF / ACO / Maine SPCA	Immediate if unsafe
Neglect of Basic Needs	Long periods without food/water, hoarding	DACF / ACO / Maine SPCA	Immediate if suffering
Transport / Handling	Overcrowded or unsafe transport, no ventilation	DACF / ACO / Maine SPCA	Immediate if unsafe
Environmental / Chemical Hazards	Exposure to toxins, extreme heat/cold, unsafe terrain	DACF / ACO / IFW (wildlife)	Immediate if dangerous
Other Risk Factors	Abandonment, unexplained deaths, illegal activity	DACF / Police / Maine SPCA / IFW	Immediate if danger

From: Vaillancourt, Penny <Penny.Vaillancourt@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 6:11 PM
To: French, Richard <Richard.French@maine.gov>
Subject: LD 1220 Chiropractic Animal Care - Stakeholder Meeting

Good afternoon, Dr. French,

I hope this email finds you well! The stakeholder meeting is wrapping up its final meeting next Friday at 9:00 a.m. and my hope is to get more information related to state reporting requirements specific to animal welfare and/or any infectious disease reporting requirements. Would you be able to share any available resources?

Thank you!
Penny

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Evaluation vs. Diagnosis in Animal Chiropractic Care

Clarifying Scope, Safety, and Statutory Consistency

Purpose

This memo clarifies the distinction between evaluation and diagnosis in animal chiropractic care, addresses concerns raised by veterinary stakeholders, and provides statutory and professional frameworks supporting safe, limited-scope practice.

Evaluation (Animal Chiropractic Scope)

An evaluation is a functional neuromusculoskeletal assessment used to determine whether an animal is appropriate and safe for chiropractic manual care, to identify vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction, and to screen for contraindications requiring veterinary referral. Evaluation does not include diagnosing disease.

Diagnosis (Veterinary Medicine Scope)

Veterinary diagnosis involves identifying and naming disease or pathological conditions, including systemic, infectious, neurologic, metabolic, or structural disease, and determining medical or surgical treatment. This remains within the exclusive scope of licensed veterinarians.

Can Evaluation Occur Without Veterinary Diagnosis?

Yes. Evaluation and diagnosis are related but not equivalent. Animal chiropractors make limited clinical judgments related to functional joint assessment and care suitability, not veterinary disease diagnosis. This distinction is reflected in multiple state statutes.

Examples of State Statutory Language

Ohio: Defines animal chiropractic as the "*evaluation and treatment of an animal's vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction*" (Ohio Rev. Code §4734.151).

Minnesota: Permits "*animal chiropractic diagnosis and treatment*" while explicitly excluding traditional veterinary diagnosis (Minn. Stat. §148.01).

Colorado: Defines animal chiropractic as "*diagnosing and treating animal vertebral subluxation*", reflecting a chiropractic-specific finding rather than disease diagnosis (C.R.S. §12-215-103).

Maine (Stakeholder Draft Language): Uses "*evaluation and treatment of joint dysfunction*" and requires veterinary referral when findings exceed chiropractic scope.

AVCA Training and Red-Flag Identification

Chiropractors who are certified by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) receive formal training in recognizing red flags that may indicate systemic disease, neurologic conditions, fractures, infections, or other non-chiropractic issues. This training emphasizes prompt referral to a licensed veterinarian when findings fall outside the chiropractic scope or suggest underlying disease requiring veterinary diagnosis or medical intervention.

Patient Safety and Referral Safeguards

Animal chiropractors do not replace veterinary diagnosis. Patient safety is maintained through defined scope limits, red-flag screening, documentation, and timely referral to veterinarians when signs suggest disease processes outside the chiropractic scope.

Professional Organization Alignment

AVCA and IVCA standards emphasize practicing within scope, patient welfare, documentation, and referral when findings exceed competence. Both organizations support functional evaluation with appropriate veterinary collaboration.

Summary

Animal chiropractors evaluate function, not disease; do not diagnose veterinary medical conditions; are trained to identify red flags requiring veterinary referral; and refer to veterinarians when indicated. This approach is consistent with statutory language across multiple states and professional standards.