

First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0007.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

SENATE BILL 17-135

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marble,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lewis,

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Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101      **CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT LICENSED**  
102            **CHIROPRACTORS WHO ARE REGISTERED TO PERFORM ANIMAL**  
103            **CHIROPRACTIC OBTAIN A VETERINARY MEDICAL CLEARANCE BY**  
104            **A LICENSED VETERINARIAN BEFORE PERFORMING AN ACT THAT**  
105            **FALLS WITHIN AN ANIMAL CHIROPRACTOR'S SCOPE OF**  
106            **PRACTICE ON AN ANIMAL PATIENT.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Under current law, a licensed chiropractor, whether or not he or

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

she is registered with the state board of chiropractic examiners to perform animal chiropractic, must obtain a veterinary medical clearance from a licensed veterinarian before performing an act that falls within the chiropractor's scope of practice on an animal patient. The bill removes the veterinary medical clearance requirement for chiropractors who are registered with the state board as animal chiropractors. A licensed chiropractor who is registered as an animal chiropractor and performs animal chiropractic on an animal patient is encouraged to consult with a veterinarian treating the animal patient.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-33-127, **amend**  
3 (1)(a), (6)(a), (6)(b), and (6)(c) as follows:

4           **12-33-127. Animal chiropractic - registration - qualifications**  
5 **- continuing education - collaboration with veterinarian - discipline**  
6 **- title restriction - rules.** (1) (a) A licensed chiropractor who is  
7 registered under this section ~~is authorized to~~ MAY perform animal  
8 chiropractic when ~~such~~ THE chiropractic diagnosis and treatment is  
9 consistent with the scope of practice for chiropractors. ~~and the animal has~~  
10 ~~been provided a veterinary medical clearance by a licensed veterinarian.~~  
11 A chiropractor ~~shall~~ MUST have the knowledge, skill, ability, and  
12 documented competency to perform an act that is within the scope of  
13 practice for chiropractors.

14           (6) **Records and professional collaboration.** (a) A licensed  
15 veterinarian who provides veterinary medical clearance for ~~animal~~  
16 ~~chiropractic~~ A CHIROPRACTOR WHO IS NOT REGISTERED AS AN ANIMAL  
17 CHIROPRACTOR PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION may  
18 require a veterinarian's presence at any chiropractic treatment rendered BY  
19 THE CHIROPRACTOR pursuant to the veterinary medical clearance  
20 REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS SECTION.

1 (b) (I) IF AN ANIMAL CHIROPRACTOR REGISTERED PURSUANT TO  
2 SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION IS DIAGNOSING AND TREATING AN  
3 ANIMAL PATIENT THAT IS ALSO UNDER THE CARE OF A LICENSED  
4 VETERINARIAN, the chiropractor ~~and~~ IS ENCOURAGED TO CONSULT WITH  
5 the veterinarian, ~~shall continue professional collaboration~~ AND THE  
6 CHIROPRACTOR AND VETERINARIAN ARE ENCOURAGED TO COLLABORATE  
7 as necessary for the well-being of the animal patient. The veterinarian  
8 shall provide the animal patient's medical record to the chiropractor upon  
9 request.

10 (II) IF A CHIROPRACTOR WHO IS NOT REGISTERED PURSUANT TO  
11 SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION IS DIAGNOSING AND TREATING AN  
12 ANIMAL PATIENT, THE CHIROPRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN PROFESSIONAL  
13 COLLABORATION WITH THE VETERINARIAN WHO PROVIDED VETERINARY  
14 MEDICAL CLEARANCE AS NECESSARY FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE ANIMAL  
15 PATIENT. THE VETERINARIAN SHALL PROVIDE THE ANIMAL PATIENT'S  
16 MEDICAL RECORD TO THE CHIROPRACTOR UPON REQUEST.

17 (c) ~~The~~ A chiropractor, WHETHER OR NOT HE OR SHE IS A  
18 REGISTERED ANIMAL CHIROPRACTOR, shall maintain an animal patient  
19 record. ~~that includes the written veterinary medical clearance, including~~  
20 ~~the name of the veterinarian, date, and time the clearance was received.~~  
21 The chiropractor shall furnish a copy of the medical record to ~~the~~ A  
22 veterinarian WHO IS TREATING THE ANIMAL PATIENT upon the  
23 veterinarian's request.

24 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
25 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
26 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
27 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a

1 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
2 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
3 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
4 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
5 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
6 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.