



Please **SUPPORT SB18-239**

## Animal Chiropractic Education And Reporting Requirements

**SB18-239 allows owners of dogs and equids to have direct access to animal chiropractors who have completed additional continuing education requirements**

### **Background:**

The Colorado Chiropractic Association (CCA) was formed in 1917 as a professional association representing Colorado Doctors of Chiropractic. The CCA represents over 500 actively practicing doctors in Colorado, including 57 registered animal chiropractors. In 2017, the CCA became one of only five state chiropractic associations to celebrate its Golden Anniversary.

The Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) was founded in 1888 and today has more than 2,100 members. CVMA is the voice of the veterinary profession in Colorado.

In the 2017 legislative session, SB17-135 was defeated in the House. Both CCA and CVMA were approached after the bill was introduced. During testimony, both the CVMA and the CCA agreed to meet and develop a proposal that both groups could support. Over the last year, CCA and CVMA and CCA formed a joint task force of staff, veterinarians and animal chiropractors who met on over 20 occasions. Both groups agreed on the need to protect public health, herd health, animal health and animal industry health. SB18-239 is a result of those meetings.

Colorado law currently allows licensed chiropractors to adjust fully awake dogs and horses if the chiropractor has completed a minimum of 210 hours of training by one of five schools approved by both the Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Colorado State Board of Chiropractic Examiners. Additionally, Animal Chiropractors are required to obtain 20 hours of continuing education, specifically related to animals, above and beyond their 30 continuing education hours requirement for the chiropractic license, each two-year license period. Currently, a registered animal chiropractor is required to receive a veterinary medical clearance prior to treating the animal whether the animal chiropractor is working independently or under direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Both CCA and CVMA appreciate Senator Marble's willingness to work with the stakeholders' collaborative effort, and Representatives Arndt's and Becker's sponsorship in the House.

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## **Bill Summary:**

SB18-239 Animal Chiropractic Education & Reporting Requirements, removes the veterinary medical clearance requirement for licensed chiropractors who have completed the following:

- A one-time, one-hour jurisprudence course. This course would educate animal chiropractors on information pertinent to mandatory reporting of contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases in Colorado.
- A one-time, eight-hour course on specific contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases that may initially present as vertebral subluxation. This course will put particular emphasis on specific pathology, clinical presentations, biosecurity, public health and herd health concerns of Rabies, West Nile Virus, Equine Herpes Virus, Canine Brucellosis, Plague and Tularemia.
- Of the required 20-hour continuing education requirement specific to animal chiropractic each license period, two hours of the 20 will provide updates on these diseases and educate animal chiropractors on Colorado incidence.

SB18-239 requires the following notifications to be provided by an animal chiropractor:

- Initiation of treatment notification by the animal chiropractor to the animal's veterinarian within seven business days. If there is no Colorado veterinarian, the notification would be made to the animal owner, or person responsible for the animal.
- If at any time while in contact with the animal, the animal chiropractor suspects the animal may have signs or symptoms of a mandated reportable disease, the animal chiropractor would stop treatment, and immediately notify the state veterinarian and the animal patient's veterinarian.

SB18-239 expands the animals allowed to receive animal chiropractic care:

- This bill allows animal chiropractors to treat dogs and any member of the Equidae family including, but not limited to, donkeys, horses, mules, and zebras.

## **Benefits of SB18-239**

- This bill allows for increased monitoring of contagious, infectious and zoonotic disease coming into Colorado by educating chiropractors to recognize signs and indicators of these diseases
- This bill supports continued collaboration between chiropractors and veterinarians for the overall wellbeing and health of the animal
- This bill protects public health, herd health and animal health
- This bill increases awareness of contagious, infectious and zoonotic diseases known to occur in Colorado

***Please Support SB18-239 for direct access to animal chiropractors  
who have the proper training and education***

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