

Sweeney-Weinberg Bill Seeks to Expand Scope of Chiropractic in New Jersey

A bill sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Steve Sweeney and Senator Loretta Weinberg which would redefine the scope of practice of licensed chiropractors in New Jersey was released by the Senate Commerce Committee by a vote of 4-1.

"Chiropractic medicine has come a long way in the last fifty years, but our State's regulations are stuck in the 1950s," said Senator Sweeney, D-Gloucester, Cumberland and Salem. "We need to bring New Jersey's licensing and regulation of chiropractors into the 21st century, recognizing that the practice of chiropractic medicine is much more than 'cracking backs.' By expanding the scope of licensed chiropractors in New Jersey, we can relieve some of the restrictive policies imposed on these medical professionals and give health care consumers more choice in treatment options in the Garden State."



Sen. Steve Sweeney



Sen. Loretta Weinberg

under official State regulations. New Jersey's scope of practice is far behind most other states, and our statutes governing licensed chiropractors are woefully out-of-date. It's time to adjust them based on the realities of modern chiropractic medicine and to make New Jersey competitive with other states."

The bill, S565, would expand the scope of practice of chiropractic medicine under the law beyond adjusting the articulations of the spinal column to include an individual's extremities. Under the bill, the practice of chiropractic would include, but not be limited to the reduction of chiropractic misalignment, as well as the examination, diagnosis, analysis, assessment, adjustment and treatment of joints and soft tissue and the ordering and administration of physical therapies and rehabilitative and strengthening exercises. The bill would also establish continuing education requirements for chiropractors, subjecting them to civil financial penalties or medical misconduct penalties if they fail to fulfill the continuing education standards, and would also allow licensed chiropractors in New Jersey to be called "Doctors of Chiropractic" or "Chiropractic Physicians," to reflect the expanded scope of treatment options they would be allowed to administer under this bill.

"Chiropractors undergo extensive medical training and provide valuable health care services to thousands of New Jerseyans each year," said Senator Weinberg, D-Bergen. "Yet, despite the proven positive health care outcomes from chiropractic medicine, these health care professionals have seen their specialty treated like fringe medicine, even

"Licensed chiropractors are qualified to do much more than back alignments," said Senator Weinberg. "However, our State's restrictive policies governing the practice of chiropractic medicine create a very limited scope of practice for these health care professionals. Our State's licensing statutes and regulatory structures should better reflect the host of health care services that chiropractors are trained and qualified to provide."

The bill sponsors noted that New Jersey last amended the scope of practice of licensed chiropractors in 1953, and as a result, New Jersey has one of the most restrictive statutes governing chiropractors' scope of practice in the nation. The lawmakers added that while a license to practice chiropractic medicine shouldn't be carte blanche to engage in unrestricted medical procedures, educated and licensed chiropractors are more than sufficiently equipped to offer other services that they are currently restricted from providing under the current law.

"This legislation doesn't give chiropractors the freedom to go off and perform open-heart surgery, but it does relieve licensing and regulatory restrictions which have no basis in medical science," said Senator Sweeney. "By expanding the scope of licensed chiropractors, we can give health care consumers in New Jersey more treatment options and increase competition among health care providers. The ultimate goal of this legislation is more accessibility and convenience to empower New Jersey's health care consumers to make the best choices possible for themselves and their families."

President's Corner – Walsemann

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I have been able to hit on only a few highlights, but I hope you understand how much we all benefit from the efforts of those who have answered chiropractic's call to serve and lead. Finally, to those who belong to the ICA, to the state associations who support the colleges through their alumni associations and who serve on state and provincial boards, you deserve a big THANK YOU as well! This is especially the case since most of our colleagues in chiropractic do not belong to any national chiropractic association. If I have but one message I could share with those who are non-members, it is simply this: You can earn the thanks of chiropractic by stepping up and supporting those who are working so hard for YOUR future by joining ICA, by joining your state, provincial or national organizations. We need you. There are plenty of thanks yet to be distributed. I would very much like to share a big THANK YOU with you when you join our ranks. Go to ICA's website at www.chiropractic.org and click on the JOIN ICA button or call the ICA headquarters at 1-800-423-4690.

You can also fill in the application form BELOW and mail or fax it in. You will be glad you did!



ICA Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
MONTH YEAR

Office Address _____ Suite _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Office Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

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City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

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Chiropractic College Attended _____

Graduation Date _____ / _____ / _____
MONTH YEAR

Chiropractic licenses held in: _____

• Engaged in active practice? Yes No • Former SICA member? Yes No

• Former Field member? Yes No

Return application to:

International Chiropractors Association

1110 North Glebe Road, Suite 650 • Arlington, VA 22201

To join online go to www.chiropractic.org

Phone: 1-800-423-4690 or 1-703-528-5000 • Fax: (703) 528-5023



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TOTAL AMOUNT** \$ _____

I hereby apply for membership in the International Chiropractors Association, agreeing to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Code of Ethics, all amendments and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors and Officers of the Association under the provisions of the Constitution, and amendments hereafter legally adopted. I also understand that failure to remit dues will result in loss of membership, and all rights and privileges thereof.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Please charge my: VISA MC AmEx Enclosed is my check/money order

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

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* Unless otherwise requested, correspondence will be sent to your office address.

** Not eligible to vote in ICA elections

† Teaching 8 or more academic hours per week at an accredited chiropractic college.

†† ICA dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes, but may be deductible as a business expense.