Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

SB 641-FN, relative to examination requirements for licensure as a chiropractor.

Hearing Date: January 14, 2026

Time Opened: 2:44 p.m. **Time Closed**: 3:08 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Altschiller

Bill Analysis: This bill modifies the examination requirements for licensure as a chiropractor.

Sponsors:
Sen. Pearl Sen. Lang Rep. Layon

Who supports the bill: Senator Howard Pearl, Daniel Richardson

Who opposes the bill: None.

Who is neutral on the bill: Deanna Jurius (OPLC)

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Howard Pearl

- Senator Pearl introduced SB 641-FN and testified in favor of the legislation.
- Sen. Pearl clarified that the bill aims to eliminate Part IV of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) as a licensing requirement in New Hampshire.
- Sen. Pearl stated that chiropractors would still need to pass the NBCE Parts I, II, and III, graduate from an accredited chiropractic college, pass clinical exit exams, and pass New Hampshire's jurisprudence exam.
- Sen. Pearl stated that the knowledge base of future chiropractors in New Hampshire remains secure because chiropractic colleges already certify clinical competency.

- The certification chiropractors earn from accredited universities includes supervised patient care, hands-on assessments, and objective performance evaluations.
- Sen. Pearl stated that Part IV hinders licensure because NBCE has centralized testing to a single location in Colorado. Furthermore, the individual seeking licensure is responsible for paying both travel expenses and the $1,500 exam fee.
- Sen. Pearl noted that the exam is duplicative and unnecessary.

Dr. Lisa Lanzara-Bazzani

- Dr. Lanzara-Bazzani testified in support of SB 641-FN.
- She expressed that she supports maintaining high standards of clinical competency and did not believe this bill put that in jeopardy.
- She stated that the Part IV Exam is redundant because the competencies addressed in the exam are covered through other required means of education and assessment.
- She confirmed that the Council of Chiropractic Education (CCE) is recognized as the accrediting body for chiropractic education and that CCE programs require direct observation of patient care, supervised clinical internships, and performance-based assessments.
- She emphasized that the Part IV exam is conducted by a third-party, private company.
- She stated that no other healthcare licensure law in New Hampshire requires an external hands-on practical exam after clinical competency has been confirmed by the degree-granting institution. She listed many professions that do not have an equivalent to a Part IV exam.
- She raised logistical concerns about the NBCE's decision to have only one testing location in Colorado for chiropractors to fulfill the Part IV requirement in New Hampshire's law.
- Senator Reardon asked if the exam chiropractors take at their accredited college is similar to the exam given in Colorado. Dr. Lanzara-Bazzani responded that the practical exam at the accredited college is much more comprehensive than the national exam.
- Senator Reardon inquired whether Colorado has always been the only place where the exam was given. Dr. Lanzara-Bazzani explained that there used to be multiple testing sites across the country, but they merged them into one site for financial reasons. She also noted that no other companies have started administering the test because each state requires this private company as part of their licensure process.
- Senator Gannon inquired about the pass rate on the national exam. Dr. Lanzara-Bazzani explained that the pass rate at the accredited college is 94%, while the pass rate on the national exam is 90%.

- Senator Reardon inquired whether any other states had eliminated the Part IV Exam requirement. Dr. Lanzara-Bazzani responded that all states except Vermont require the Part IV Exam.
- Senator Gannon expressed concern that accredited colleges might influence pass rates because they have a vested interest in high pass rates. Dr. Lanzara-Bazzani stated that these colleges must maintain high academic standards.
- Senator McGough said colleges are evaluated based on their pass rate and are therefore naturally incentivized to maintain a high pass rate. He asked whether this creates a situation where schools might pass students who do not deserve it and how many other professions have outside testing agencies. She responded that no other healthcare licensure law in New Hampshire requires an external hands-on practical exam after clinical competency has been established.

Dr. John Schuessler

- Dr. Schuessler testified in support of SB 641-FN.
- He stated that the Part IV exam is redundant and unnecessary because each chiropractic college has its own version of the Part IV Exam.
- He pointed out that passing the national exam isn't the hardest part; the real challenge is being able to afford taking it.

Dr. Jenny Bruck, President of NH State Chiropractic Society

- Dr. Bruck testified in support of SB 641-FN
- She established that when she became licensed thirty years ago, the Part IV exam did not exist.
- She stated the bill upholds public safety standards and eliminates a redundant obstacle.

Dr. Stephanie Foisy Ryan

- Dr. Foisy Ryan established that there is a 90% pass rate on the national exam.
- She established that all of the requirements to become licensed in New Hampshire are difficult and comprehensive.
- Senator Reardon asked if parts I, II, and III were owned by the same company. She responded that all four parts are owned by the same company and that there is no room for competition because every state has this specific company listed in their laws.
- Senator McGough asked whether the Part IV exam effectively assesses a prospective chiropractor's competency. She responded that it is a redundant tool since the colleges already handle that evaluation.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented:

Deanna Jurius, Executive Director OPLC

- Director Jurius defined her office's mission and stated that it would have the ability to carry out the changes outlined in the bill.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 19, 2026