

**Senate Executive Departments and Administration
Committee**
Kevin Condict 271-7875

HB 267, relative to animal chiropractors.

Hearing Date: April 9, 2025

Time Opened: 11:16 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:20 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Gannon

Bill Analysis: This bill exempts individuals with degrees in veterinary medicine or chiropractics who have completed a nationally recognized animal chiropractic program, as determined by the executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification, from veterinary licensure requirements.

Sponsors:

Rep. D. Kelley

Rep. Read

Rep. Wheeler

Who supports the bill: Rep. Carol McGuire (Merr. 27), Rep. Jaci Grote (Rock. 24), Simon Thomson (NHSCS), Rep. Diane Kelley (Hills. 32), Rep. Jonah Wheeler (Hills. 33), Kurt Ehrenberg (HWFA), Curtis Howland, Timothy Finney, James Gardner, Diane Richardson, Daniel Richardson, Sarahlynn Williams, and Aubrey Freedman.

Who opposes the bill: Sarah McCarthy.

Who is neutral on the bill: Dir. Dee Jurius (OPLC), and Nik Frye (OPLC).

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Diane Kelley, Hillsborough 32

- Rep. Kelley introduced House Bill 267.
- Rep. Kelley said that many committee members may remember last year's version of this bill. She said this version of the bill was worked on by a subcommittee of stakeholders such as the New Hampshire Veterinary Board, the two human chiropractic associations, and the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC).

- The subcommittee crafted language that allowed veterinarians and licensed chiropractors who attend a nationally recognized animal chiropractic program, which was to be determined by the executive director of the OPLC, to adjust animals without a veterinary referral. The bill also allows chiropractors to perform adjustments without requiring the direct supervision of a veterinarian.
- Rep. Kelley explained that in the United States chiropractors are considered primary care doctors, which means a referral is not needed to see one. She noted that an individual could bring their child to the chiropractor without a doctor's referral.
- Rep. Kelley said this has been a gray area with animals. She said this gray area is being addressed by many states. She said this will have to be addressed by all states as people become more aware of the benefits of chiropractic for animals.
- Rep. Kelley said that getting a veterinary referral can currently take weeks because there is a noticeable shortage of veterinarians. She noted that it can also be prohibitively expensive to receive a referral.
- Rep. Kelley said that chiropractic care can result in relief that is faster and less expensive.
- Rep. Kelley explained that this bill passed the House and Senate last year but there was last minute concern about the lack of explicit language about who was eligible. The original language said that anyone who attends a nationally recognized animal chiropractic program would be exempt from veterinary licensing for adjusting animals. She said that since only veterinarians and licensed chiropractors can get into those programs nobody expressed concern at the time. However, it was brought up at the last moment that the language should more explicitly state who would be exempt.
- Rep. Kelley said it is her hope that, with the new language, New Hampshire can move forward with this settled.

Representative Carol McGuire, Merrimack 27

- Rep. McGuire said the House has passed this bill three times. She said the bill is simply a matter of clarifying that an animal chiropractor does not need to be a veterinarian and that they do not need the permission of a veterinarian to use their skills.