

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

**HB 1233**, relative to animal chiropractors.

**Hearing Date:** March 6, 2024

**Time Opened:** 9:43 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:59 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Pearl, Carson, Gendreau, Perkins Kwoka and Altschiller

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill exempts individuals 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.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. D. Kelley

Rep. Read

Rep. Wheeler

Rep. Gerhard

Rep. Sheehan

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**Who supports the bill:** In total, **30** individuals signed in in support of SB 1233. The full sign in sheets are available upon request to the Legislative Aide, Kevin Condict (kevin.condict@leg.state.nh.us).

**Who opposes the bill:** Loren Breen (Animal Policy Group) and Mary Tanzer.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None.

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Representative Dianne Kelley, Hillsborough 32**

- Rep. Kelley introduced House Bill 1233.
- Rep. Kelley said the laws are vague for animal chiropractors and they are at risk of prosecution. She said there have been court battles between the animal chiropractors and the Board of Veterinary Medicine.
- Rep. Kelley stated the industry is poised for significant growth.
- She said animals can have quick pain relief for cheap, but there is no freedom for animals to receive chiropractic treatment.

- Rep. Kelley said it is unworkable for veterinarians to go with people to the animal chiropractors. She said there are significant wait times for veterinarian appointments. She said denying access to animal chiropractic treatments increases animal suffering and reduces a vet's ability to treat other issues.
- Rep. Kelley stated that her dog has received animal chiropractic treatment to treat lingering pain received in a car accident.
- Rep. Kelley explained that the NH Board of Veterinary Medicine told her there are no rules regarding animal chiropractors. She said more animals can be helped if rules are created and advertising for the treatment can be done. She noted the Board of Veterinary Medicine has not pursued animal chiropractors hard, but the issue must be resolved in statute.
- Rep. Kelley said she worked with the OPLC and stakeholders to craft the bill.
- Sen. Pearl asked if there is a nationally recognized animal chiropractic license.
  - o Rep. Kelley said there is. She said she has never met an animal chiropractor who is not also a human chiropractor or veterinarian. She said this is a subdivision of regular chiropractic services and generally applies to dogs and horses, who respond to treatment most similarly to humans. She noted that it takes weeks to get in to see a vet, but that seeing an animal chiropractor is usually quick.
- Sen. Pearl asked for clarification that the bill is not looking to set up a New Hampshire animal chiropractor license but is only looking for an exemption from the Board of Veterinary Medicine rules.
  - o Rep. Kelley said that is correct.
- Sen. Altschiller noted concerns from animal policy groups. She asked if it would be appropriate to add referral language so that there must be a specific diagnosis in place to receive treatment.
  - o Rep. Kelley voiced her objection to the idea. She said it takes a lot of time to get a vet appointment and a referral would cost money. She said that people can take their babies to the chiropractor without a referral but cannot take their horse or dog. She said that many owners will bring their pets to the chiropractor before competitions for tune up adjustments in case their animals are stiff. Rep. Kelley stated that animal chiropractors are highly trained and provide quick pain relief for animals.

### **Representative Sherry Gould, Merrimack 8**

- Rep. Gould explained that she is testifying as a member of the House ED&A committee, which heard a lot of testimony and concerns and unanimously voted for this bill to pass.
- Rep. Gould shared an anecdote about the angora rabbits she raises. She said the vet felt the rabbits were being poisoned by something and wanted to run extensive tests which were cost prohibitive. Her personal chiropractor was able to run kinesiology tests for toxins, which found a toxin that the veterinarian would not have tested for.

- Rep. Gould stated there is a veterinarian shortage in New Hampshire. She said to not tie them up just to refer an animal to a chiropractor.

KC

Date Hearing Report completed: March 12, 2024