



HOUSE BILL 354: Chiropractic Assistant Modifications.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 27, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. White, Sasser	Prepared by:	Theresa Matula
Analysis of:	First Edition		Legislative Analyst

OVERVIEW: House Bill 354 expands the services that can be provided by chiropractic clinical assistants in a chiropractic preceptorship program and under the direct supervision of a licensed chiropractor.

CURRENT LAW: Chapter 90, Article 8, contains chiropractic laws. Under G.S. 90-143.4 a **chiropractic clinical assistant** is defined as a nonlicensed employee of a chiropractic physician whose duties include:

- (i) collecting general health data, such as the taking of an oral history or vital sign measurements,
- (ii) applying therapeutic procedures, such as thermal, sound, light and electrical modalities, and hydrotherapy, and
- (iii) monitoring prescribed rehabilitative activities.

G.S. 90-142.1 authorizes supervised training programs and defines a **preceptorship program** as a clinical program of an approved chiropractic college in which a student of chiropractic, under the supervision of a licensed chiropractor, observes the licensed chiropractor and may perform the duties of a certified chiropractic clinical assistant (as specified in G.S. 90-143.4). Each student enrolled in a chiropractic college that meets accreditation requirements (G.S. 90-143) may participate in a preceptorship program.

BILL ANALYSIS : Currently, chiropractic clinical assistants are not allowed to provide a chiropractic adjustment, manual therapy, nutritional instruction, counseling, or any other therapeutic service that requires individual licensure.

Section 1 of House Bill 354 amends the statute (G.S. 90-143.4) pertaining to chiropractic clinical assistants as follows:

- Removes "counseling" from the prohibited services.
- Allows chiropractic clinical assistants who are graduates of, or students enrolled in, accredited chiropractic colleges and participating in a preceptorship program (under G.S. 90-142.1) to provide the following services under the direct supervision of a licensed chiropractor:
 - Chiropractic adjustment
 - Manual therapy
 - Nutritional instruction

The bill defines direct supervision to mean that the supervising licensed chiropractor must be within the immediate patient treatment area and available to the student at all times.

Section 2 amends statutes related to practicing without a license to conform to the change in Section 1.

Section 3 requires the NC State Board of Chiropractic Examiners to adopt rules for implementation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective October 1, 2023.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578