



# HOUSE BILL 354: Chiropractic Assistant Modifications.

2023-2024 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 3, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. White, Sasser	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Theresa Matula
<b>Analysis of:</b>	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.

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