



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

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Chris Tuck
Representative
House Majority Leader
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Tuck,

In reviewing House Bill 89, the Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners has noticed several potential areas of conflict. Specifically, the Board feels there is a conflict between House Bill 89 "Licensing Radiologic Technicians", and Senate Bill 69 that was signed into law 05/17/2016 with an effective date of 08/15/2016. It is the interpretation from our reading of HB 89 that it does not provide for a provision of exemption from licensing for Chiropractic Clinical Assistants in Sec. 08.89.100 Unlicensed Practice Prohibited. This is a significant issue because if not addressed, it could lead to confusion, additional wasted hours, time and money, by both the state and well-intended providers, but also the intrusion of one board, into another's governance of its body.

For better clarity on the issue, we feel referencing of SB 69's specific language is crucial. Under Sec. 08.20.168, Chiropractic Clinical assistants may, under the general supervision of a licensed Doctor of Chiropractic, perform diagnostic imaging studies. Under Sec. 08.20.900 Definitions (8), Chiropractic Clinical Assistants can perform chiropractic examinations under the supervision of a licensed Doctor of Chiropractic which includes diagnostic procedures including x-ray and other diagnostic imaging devices.

Under Alaska statute, chiropractic clinical assistants are authorized to take x-rays under the general supervision of a licensed Doctor of Chiropractic. Because of this, and the potential conflict inherent to SB89, the Alaska Chiropractic Society has suggested that the following addition be made to HB89, Sec. 08.89.100 Unlicensed practice prohibited: (7) a chiropractic clinical assistant who uses equipment emitting radiation on humans under the general supervision of a licensed practitioner.

This addition would be the same in HB 89 as the exemption provided for dental assistants in (2) of Sec. 08.89.100 who are allowed to perform x-rays under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

The Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners, endorses the Alaska Chiropractic Society's suggested addition to allow for Chiropractic Assistants exemption, as they are already governed under current statute, and via the Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners itself.

The Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners is also very concerned about HB89 Sec. 08.89.100 (b) The licensing or permit requirement in (a) of this section does not apply to a person who is (1) a licensed practitioner, if the practitioner certifies to the department on a form prepared by the department that the practitioner has obtained education or training to ensure the examination or test is performed safely.

Through the professional licensing process with the Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Doctors of Chiropractic already verify their education and training to perform x-rays safely. Sec.08.20.120 Qualifications for license (3) (B) (iii) require 1400hours of preclinical technique, including diagnosis, chiropractic technique, and x-ray. Licensed Doctors of Chiropractic are also required to have 8hours of continuing education every two years in radiology - 12AAC 16.290 Hours of Continuing Education Required (2)(A) eight hours of the total hours required under this paragraph must be devoted to (i) radiographic safety; (ii) radiographic techniques and interpretation; or (iii) diagnostic imaging.

To require Doctors of Chiropractic to further certify on yet another form, potentially pay yet another fee, to yet another division of the department appears illogical, wasteful, and unduly burdensome to both the Doctor and the state.

The Board feels these are very significant conflicts that can be easily averted, if specific language is added and/or modified to allow for the preceding statute and current governance through the Board itself to be maintained in its current form. The board respects and appreciates your commitment to smart and efficient legislation, and clear and concise regulation. We look forward to hearing from you and formally invite you to attend, either in person or telephonically, the next Board of Chiropractic Examiners meeting, on December 15th, 2017, in Anchorage.

Sincerely,

Dr Walter L Campbell
President- Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners