



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

May 29, 2024

Governor ' s Veto Message Regarding House Bill 1233

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on May 29, 2024, I have vetoed House Bill 1233, relative to animal chiropractors.

This bill seeks to exempt select individuals from licensure requirements in the context of providing chiropractic care to animals. While the notion of reducing rigidity in licensing requirements for purposes of promoting access is laudable, such initiatives must be done with prudence to avoid unintended consequences. The exemption set forth in this bill is vague and stakeholders from the chiropractic and veterinary communities have been uniform in expressing concern over potential unintended consequences, inclusive of allowing individuals to treat animals who lack certain fundamental and foundational training and knowledge concerning animal care.

In addition to concerns over the direct care of animals, the proposed language appears to entirely exempt these prospective practitioners from licensure requirements as opposed to offer the grant of licensure through recognized review and reciprocity. Intended or not, this presents the possibility that these individuals would operate in the absence of the oversight or accountability generally attendant to provision of such services.

While I understand the intent of this bill and am an advocate for reducing unnecessary obstacles to individuals engaging in a trade, upon advice of professionals currently engaged in the field, further adjustments to this bill are needed.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 1233.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor