

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 439](#)

TITLE: Practice of Chiropractic Medicine

SPONSOR(S): Cobb

COMPANION BILL: [SB 1524](#) (Simon)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Health Professions & Programs](#)

17 Y, 0 N, As CS

[Health & Human Services](#)



SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

CS/HB 439 authorizes board-certified chiropractic physicians to order, store, possess, prescribe, and administer, by means of injection only at the chiropractic physician's office, sterile substances, including vitamins, minerals, and nutritional supplements. The bill expressly prohibits a chiropractic physician from administering any substance by means of intravenous therapy.

The bill requires chiropractic physicians to be certified by the Board of Chiropractic Medicine before they administer sterile substances to a patient. The bill requires the Board of Chiropractic Medicine to establish minimum standards of practice for the administration of sterile substances.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

CS/HB 439 authorizes board-certified [chiropractic physicians](#) to order, store, possess, prescribe, and administer vitamins, minerals, and nutritional supplements in the form of sterile substances by means of injection only at the chiropractic physician's office or place of business.¹ (Section 1).

The bill expressly prohibits a chiropractic physician from administering any substance by means of intravenous therapy.² (Section 1). Current law only authorizes chiropractic physicians to order, store, and administer, certain topical anesthetics in aerosol form and, for emergency purposes only at the chiropractic physician's office or place of business, prescription medical oxygen.

The bill requires a chiropractic physician to be certified by the [Board of Chiropractic Medicine \(Board\)](#) prior to administering vitamins, minerals, and nutritional supplements. (Section 2).

¹ Subcutaneous injection therapy involves the injection of medicine into fatty tissue between the skin and the muscle via hypodermic needle and syringe, which allows subcutaneous tissue to absorb medicines at a steady, measured pace. See National Library of Medicine, "Subcutaneous (SQ) Injections," *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* (last reviewed Oct. 28, 2023) <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000430.htm> (last visited Jan. 29 2026).

² Intravenous (IV) fluids are liquids injected into a person's veins through an IV tube to rapidly counteract dehydration and electrolyte imbalances. The most common type of IV fluid are crystalloid solutions, which contain small, dissolved, easily absorbent molecules (e.g., normal saline solution). On the other hand, colloids are IV fluids containing large molecules that cannot easily pass through cell membranes and are more likely to stay in the bloodstream, which can elevate the risk of blood toxicity. "IV Fluids," *Cleveland Clinic* (medically reviewed Aug. 3, 2021) <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treatments/21635-iv-fluids> (last visited Jan. 29, 2026).

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The bill requires the Board to establish minimum standards of practice for the administration of sterile substances by means of injection by chiropractic physicians. This includes, at a minimum, that a chiropractic physician must:

- Complete 36 hours of continuing education and training to consist of didactic lectures (i.e., classroom learning) and laboratory training (i.e., experiential learning) on the safe and effective administration of vitamins, minerals, and nutritional supplements, with an emphasis on protocols, indications, and contraindications;
- Pass a written and practice examination;
- Secure informed consent from the patient on the possible risks and adverse events which may occur through the administration of sterile substances by injection;
- Document the patient's informed consent within the patient's documented care plan; and
- Not delegate the administration of sterile substances by means of injection to any other person other than another board-certified chiropractic physician.

The bill requires the Board to issue a letter certifying that that the chiropractic physician is authorized to administer sterile substances by injection once he or she submits documentation to the Board verifying the completion of the continuing education and exam passage requirements. (Section 2).

The bill requires the Board to adopt rules to establish minimum standards of practice for the administration of sterile substances by means of injection by chiropractic physicians. (Section 2).

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2026. (Section 3).

RULEMAKING:

Current law authorizes the Board of Chiropractic Medicine (Board) to adopt rules to implement the provisions of ch. 460, F.S., conferring duties upon it. The bill creates new rulemaking authority at s. 460.4086(4), F.S., to allow the Board to establish minimum standards of practice for the administration of sterile substances by means of injection by chiropractic physicians.

Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Chiropractic Medicine

Practice of Chiropractic Medicine

Under current law [s. 460.403, F.S.](#), the practice of chiropractic medicine is a noncombative principle and practice consisting of the science, philosophy, and art of the adjustment, manipulation, and treatment of the human body. Specifically, chiropractic medicine targets vertebral subluxations and other malpositioned articulations and structures that interfere with the normal generation, transmission, and expression of nerve impulse between the brain, organs, and tissue cells of the body. Left untreated, these abnormalities may cause disease. To mitigate the occurrence of disease, [chiropractor physicians](#) adjust, manipulate, and treat the human body to restore the normal flow of nerve impulse which produces normal function and consequent health. The practice of chiropractic medicine further contemplates that chiropractic physicians use specific chiropractic adjustment or manipulation techniques taught in chiropractic colleges accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE).³

³ The Council on Chiropractic Education is recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the accrediting body for chiropractic programs. United States Department of Education, *Accreditation in the United States*,

No person other than a licensed chiropractic physician may render chiropractic services, chiropractic adjustments, or chiropractic manipulations.⁴

Chiropractic physicians may adjust, manipulate, or treat the human body by:

- Manual, mechanical, electrical, or natural methods;
- The use of physical means or physiotherapy, including light, heat, water, or exercise;
- The use of acupuncture;
- The use of dry needling for trigger points or myofascial pain; or
- The administration of foods, food concentrates, food extracts, and items for which a prescription is not required.

In addition, chiropractic physicians may apply first aid and hygiene. However, chiropractic physicians are expressly prohibited from prescribing or administering to any person any legend drug⁵ and except, in emergencies, prescription medical oxygen or topical anesthetics in aerosol form. Chiropractic physicians cannot perform any surgery or practice obstetrics.⁶

The Regulation of Chiropractic Physicians

Chiropractic physicians are regulated by the [Board of Chiropractic Medicine \(Board\)](#) within the Department of Health (DOH) under ch. 460, F.S., which establishes minimum requirements for the safe practice of chiropractic medicine. At the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025, there were 6,905 in-state and 808 out-of-state Florida-licensed chiropractic physicians.⁷

Licensed chiropractic physicians are subject to discipline under ch. 456, F.S., and the chiropractic-specific grounds in ch. 460, F.S. DOH and the Board may take action for rule violations, fraud, and other enumerated misconduct. The Board's implementing rules are codified in Rule Chapter 64B2, F.A.C., addressing matters such as licensure and renewal, continuing education, advertising, and disciplinary guidelines.

Unauthorized Instruments of Treatment

The Board prohibits chiropractic physicians from using instruments for treatment which are not taught in the regular course of instruction in a board-recognized college.⁸ Current law does not authorize chiropractic physicians to treat patients with subcutaneous instruments or intravenous instruments.

OTHER RESOURCES:

[Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine](#)

https://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg3.html (last visited Jan. 25, 2026); Council for Higher Education Accreditation, *Council on Chiropractic Education*, <https://www.chea.org/council-chiropractic-education> (last visited Jan. 25, 2026).

⁴ [S. 460.403\(9\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

⁵ Legend drugs require a prescription from a licensed health care provider before they may be legally dispensed.

⁶ [S. 460.403\(9\)\(c\), F.S.](#)

⁷ Division of Medical Quality Assurance, "Annual Report and Long-Range Plan: Fiscal Year 2024-25," *Department of Health*, pp. 24 <https://www.floridahealth.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2025.10.31.FY24-25MQAAR-FINAL1.pdf> (last visited Jan. 25, 2026).

⁸ Rule 64B2-17.001, F.A.C.

BILL HISTORY

| COMMITTEE REFERENCE | ACTION | DATE | STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF | ANALYSIS PREPARED BY |
|--|------------------|----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee | 17 Y, 0 N, As CS | 2/3/2026 | McElroy | DesRochers |

THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:

- Authorize board-certified chiropractic physicians to order, store, possess, prescribe, and administer certain sterile substances.
- Require chiropractic physicians to be certified by the Board of Chiropractic Medicine before they administer sterile substances to a patient.
- Prohibit chiropractic physicians from administering any substance through intravenous therapy.
- Require the Board of Chiropractic Medicine to establish minimum standards of practice for the administration of sterile substances.

[Health & Human Services Committee](#)

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
