

- SUBJECT:** Allowing a temporary faculty license for chiropractic faculty
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Kolkhorst, Naishtat, Coleman, J. Davis, Gonzales, Hopson, S. King, McReynolds, Truitt, Zerwas
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Laubenberg
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 24 — 30–0
- WITNESSES:** (*On House companion bill, HB 3450:*)
For — Deborah Ingersoll, Texas Chiropractic College; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jason Flanagan, Texas Chiropractic College; Jesse Green, Dean McWilliams, Parker Chiropractic College)
- Against — None
- DIGEST:** SB 1954 would authorize the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners (TBCE) to issue a temporary faculty license to practice chiropractic. To obtain a temporary license, a person would have to:
- hold a current chiropractic license that was unrestricted and not subject to a disciplinary order or probation in another state or a Canadian province;
 - have passed the examination required to receive a Texas chiropractic license;
 - have been practicing chiropractic for at least the three years preceding the application or have been a chiropractic educator in an accredited degree program for at least the three years preceding the application for a temporary faculty license; and
 - hold a salaried, full-time faculty position of at least the level of assistant professor at one of the two chiropractic colleges in the state (Parker College of Chiropractic or Texas Chiropractic College).

A person also would be eligible for a temporary faculty license if the person held a faculty position of at least the level of assistant professor, worked at least part-time at one of the two Texas chiropractic colleges, and was on active duty in the U.S. armed forces and the person's practice would fulfill critical needs of Texas citizens.

A temporary license would be valid for one year. A chiropractor who was issued a temporary license would have to abide by statutory requirements and board rules and would be subject to disciplinary procedures of the TBCE. The licensee could teach only at the school that made the application for a temporary license and would be prohibited from practicing outside the school. If a person holding a temporary license wished to receive a permanent, unrestricted license, the person would have to meet requirements for a permanent license.

The chiropractic school would have to notify the TBCE within 72 hours if a person who had a temporary faculty license no longer met the employment requirements for the license.

The bill would require the TBCE to adopt rules by January 1, 2010, to implement the provisions of the bill, including provisions for revoking the temporary license and for setting fees for the license and its renewal.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

SB 1954 would allow the two Texas chiropractic schools to begin attracting professors immediately from across the nation to teach in Texas. The chiropractic colleges hire about five to 15 professors a year, and some of these faculty members come from one of the other 17 accredited chiropractic colleges in the United States. However, until they are licensed, they are allowed only to lecture but cannot perform any physical demonstration activities. The bill would allow them fully and comprehensively to teach chiropractic students during the time their permanent license application was pending.

The bill would not allow a chiropractor to "hang out a shingle" and open an office for private practice while teaching at the school. In fact, the chiropractor could teach only at the school where the chiropractor was hired.

The Texas Medical Board has similar authority to issue a temporary faculty license for doctors licensed in other states who desire to teach in a Texas medical school. The Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners should have the same authority.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The House companion bill, HB 3450 by Legler, passed the House on May 1 by 136-0 and was considered in a public hearing by the Senate Administration Committee on May 18.