



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 409**

*January Session, 2003*

House Bill No. 6683

*House of Representatives, April 16, 2003*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. WIDLITZ of the 98th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MYOFASCIAL TRIGGER POINT THERAPY ON ANIMALS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-197 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or dentistry  
4 until he has obtained a license as provided in section 20-199. A person  
5 shall be construed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery or  
6 dentistry, within the meaning of this chapter, who holds himself out as  
7 being able to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or  
8 prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or  
9 physical condition, or who either offers or undertakes, by any means  
10 or methods, to diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or  
11 prescribe for any animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or  
12 physical condition. The euthanizing of animals in accordance with  
13 applicable state and federal drug laws by the Connecticut Humane

14 Society, [and] the floating of teeth in horses by persons experienced in  
15 that practice and the performance of myofascial trigger point therapy  
16 by persons experienced in that practice shall not be deemed to be the  
17 practice of veterinary medicine. For the purposes of this section,  
18 "floating teeth" means using hand-held rasps to reduce or eliminate  
19 sharp or uneven edges on a horse's upper and lower molars to avoid  
20 injury to the tongue and cheeks and to improve chewing food, but  
21 does not include treating decay, tumors or extracting teeth. For  
22 purposes of this section, "myofascial trigger point therapy" means the  
23 use of specific palpation, compression, stretching and corrective  
24 exercise for promoting optimum athleticism.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Type</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>	<b>FY 05 \$</b>
Department of Public Health	General Fund - Revenue Loss	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Exempting myofascial trigger point therapy done by experienced individuals from the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine will result in a potential workload decrease for the Department of Public Health as the agency may no longer become involved in certain disciplinary actions. A potential minimal revenue loss may also result as fines would no longer be collected from persons found to be in violation of current law.

Pursuant to Section 20-206(b) CGS, a person not licensed as a veterinarian who performs duties within the scope of practice of veterinary medicine shall be fined not more than \$300 or imprisoned for up to six months or both. However, it should be noted that no offenses occurred in FY 02 and no fines were imposed.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 6683

***AN ACT CONCERNING MYOFASCIAL TRIGGER POINT THERAPY  
ON ANIMALS***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows people with experience performing myofascial trigger point therapy who practice it on animals to do so without violating the prohibition on the practice of veterinarian medicine without a license. The bill defines “myofascial trigger point therapy” as the use of specific palpation (examining by touch), compression, stretching, and corrective exercise for promoting optimum athleticism.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 27 Nay 0