



House of Representatives

File No. 786

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

(Reprint of File No. 409)

House Bill No. 6683
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 29, 2003

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 Section 20-197 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, and "persons experienced
 25 in that practice" means a person who has attended a minimum of two
 26 hundred hours of classroom, lecture and hands-on practice in
 27 myofascial trigger point therapy, including animal musculoskeletal
 28 anatomy and biomechanics, theory and application of animal
 29 myofascial trigger point techniques, factors that habituate a presenting
 30 condition and corrective exercise.

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

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:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Revenue Loss	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

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.

House "A" defines persons experienced in the practice of myofascial trigger point therapy. This does not alter the underlying fiscal impact statement.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6683 (as amended by House "A")*

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 ban on practicing 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. It defines "experienced people" as those who have attended at least 200 hours of classroom, lecture, and hands-on practice in myofascial trigger point therapy, including:

1. animal musculoskeletal anatomy and biomechanics,
2. theory and application of myofascial trigger point therapy technique,
3. factors that cause a condition to reoccur, and
4. corrective exercise.

The bill also makes a conforming technical change.

*House Amendment "A" defines "experienced person."

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 27 Nay 0