

of Maryland (1939 Edition and 1943 Supplement), title "Health", sub-title "Chiropractic", relating to the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners and clarifying the provisions of the law relating to the practice of chiropractic and prohibiting certain types of advertising.

This bill makes several amendments to the existing chiropractic law most of which are not too important and about which there is not much controversy.

The controversy over the bill arises because of the amendment of Sub-section (c) of Section 446, of Article 43 of the Code, in which the practice of chiropractic is defined. I set forth the sub-section in question showing by italicizing what has been added to the law and by parenthesis ( ) what has been eliminated.

"(c) chiropractic is hereby defined to be a drugless health system, the basic principle of which teaches that disease is caused by interference with the transmission of nerve impulses. The practice of chiropractic is defined as diagnosis, the location of disaligned or misplaced vertabrae of the human spinal column, the procedure preparatory to and the adjustment by hand of such misaligned or displaced vertebrae of the spinal column and its articulations, by any method not including the use of drugs, surgery or obstetrics, *osteopathy, optometry or podiatry or any branch of medicine for the purpose of relieving such interference and aiding in the restoration of health, providing that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the use of by any licensed chiropractor of all necessary electrical, mechanical, dietetic and sanitary measures incident to the care of the human body, (nor any branch of medicine, nor osteopathy) for the purpose of relieving such interference.*"

At an extended hearing on the bill the representatives of the chiropractic profession contended that the added language will give them no right to do anything more in practice than they are now doing. If that is true, the importance of the amendment tends to disappear. On the other hand, members of the medical profession very strenuously contend that the added language will extend the field of practice to the doing of most anything.

If this is true, the major controversy over the bill is confined to a question of the interpretation of the language used in the amendment. I have decided to veto the bill because I have been assured that the added language is unnecessary in order to permit the chiropractic profession to continue its practice in the same manner and to the same extent that it has and now does.