

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide limited government-The bill removes several regulations related to the standards of the profession of athletic training in Florida.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill increases the scope of practice of athletic trainers within chapter 768, part XIII, by adding rehabilitation to the definition. Currently, s. 768.701, F.S., provides a definition of athletic training as a profession that recognizes, prevents, and treats athletic injuries.

The bill *removes* the following provisions from chapter 468, part XIII, regulating the profession of athletic training:

- Relevant coursework requirements such as biomechanics; health; anatomy and physiology; basic and advanced athletic training;
- Standard first aid, thus requiring licensed athletic trainers to only be certified in basic CPR;
- 800 hours within 2 years of direct supervised athletic training experience;
- Licensee is at least 21 years of age;
- Practice athletic training 3 of the 5 years preceding application for licensure;
- Certification by the National Athletic Trainers' Association or a comparable National Athletic standards organization; and
- An exemption provision relating to teacher apprentice trainers and teacher athletic trainers.¹

The bill provides stricter enforcement grounds for practicing athletic training without a license by removing the provision of acts associated with compensation, so that practicing without a license as an athletic trainer is no longer relating to monetary services.

The bill provides for the replacement of teacher athletic trainers by licensed athletic trainers and requires that a first responder may not purport to be an athletic trainer without being licensed as an athletic trainer.²

BACKGROUND

The Department of Health's Division of Medical Quality Assurance

The department's Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) regulates health care practitioners to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public. Currently, MQA supports licensure and disciplinary activities for 37 professions and 6 facilities, and works with 28 boards and councils. Boards are responsible for approving or denying applications for licensure and are involved in disciplinary hearings. The range of disciplinary actions taken by boards includes citations, suspensions, reprimands, probations, and revocations. Licensed athletic trainers are governed by rules adopted by the Board of Athletic Training.

¹ To qualify as a *Teacher Athletic Trainer* a person must possess a professional, temporary, part-time, adjunct, or substitute certificate pursuant to s. 1012.35, s. 1012.56, F.S., or s. 1012.57, F.S., and be licensed as required by pt. XIII, ch. 468, F.S.

² To qualify as a *First Responder*, a person must possess a professional, temporary, part-time, adjunct, or substitute certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, F.S., be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and have 15 semester hours in courses such as care and prevention of athletic injuries, anatomy, physiology, nutrition, counseling, and other similar courses approved by the Commissioner of Education. This person may only administer first aid and similar care.

Licensed Athletic Trainers in Florida

Section 468.707, F.S. provides licensure requirements for licensed athletic trainers in the state of Florida. Accordingly, the Department of Health may license individuals who:

- Has completed the application form and remitted the required fees, which may total \$500;³
- Is at least 21 years of age;
- Obtained a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the United States Department of Education or the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation, or approved by the board;
- Completed coursework from a accredited college or university in each of the following areas, as provided by rule: health, human anatomy, kinesiology/biomechanics, human physiology, physiology of exercise, basic athletic training, and advanced athletic training.
- Is certified in standard first aid and cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) from the American Red Cross or an equivalent certification;
- Has, within 2 of the preceding 5 years, attained a minimum of 800 hours of athletic training experience under the direct supervision of a licensed athletic trainer or an athletic trainer certified by the National Athletic Trainers' Association or a comparable national athletic standards organization; and
- Has passed an examination administered or approved by the board.

The department may also license individuals who:

- Completed the application form and remitted the required fees no later than October 1, 1996;
- Is at least 21 years of age;
- Is certified in standard first aid and cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation from the American Red Cross or an equivalent certification;
- Has practiced athletic training for at least 3 of the 5 years preceding application; or
- Is currently certified by the National Athletic Trainers' Association or a comparable national athletic standards organization.

Pursuant to the requirements of s. 456.034, F.S., each applicant must complete a continuing education course on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) as part of initial licensure.

Certified Athletic Trainers and the National Athletic Trainers' Association

According to the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Certified Athletic Trainers (ATCs) are medical experts in preventing, recognizing, managing and rehabilitating injuries that result from physical activity. Athletic trainers can help athletes avoid unnecessary medical treatment and disruption of normal daily life.⁴

The American Medical Association (AMA) recognized athletic training as an allied health care profession in 1990. AMA recommends certified athletic trainers in every high school to keep America's youth safe and healthy.⁵ Specifically, an ATC specializes in six practice areas or domains:

- Prevention
- Recognition, Evaluation & Assessment

³ See s. 468.709, F.S.

⁴ Online at the National Athletic Trainers Association website:
<http://www.nata.org/downloads/documents/306CareerInfoBrochure.htm>

⁵ Ibid.

- Immediate Care
- Treatment, Rehabilitation & Reconditioning
- Organization & Administration
- Professional Development & Responsibility

As part of a complete health care team, the certified athletic trainer works under the direction of a licensed physician and in cooperation with other health care professionals, athletics administrators, coaches and parents. The ATC gets to know each athlete individually and can treat injuries more effectively.

A certified athletic trainer's day may, for example, include these tasks:

- Prepare athletes for practice or competition, including taping, bandaging and bracing;
- Evaluate injuries to determine their management and possible referral;
- Develop conditioning programs; and
- Implement treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Students who want to become certified athletic trainers must earn a degree from an accredited athletic training curriculum or meet other requirements set by the BOC. A growing number of universities are gaining accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

ATC curriculum includes formal instruction in a variety of areas, such as:

- Assessment and Evaluation
- Acute Care
- General Medical Conditions and Disabilities
- Pathology of Injury and Illness
- Pharmacological Aspects of Injury and Illness
- Nutritional Aspects of Injury and Illness
- Therapeutic Exercise
- Therapeutic Modalities
- Risk Management and Injury Prevention
- Health Care Administration
- Professional Development and Responsibilities
- Psychosocial Intervention and Referral

The Board of Certification for National Certification of Athletic Trainers

Purpose of National Certification

The Board of Certification (BOC) was incorporated in 1989 to provide a certification program for entry-level athletic trainers and recertification standards for certified athletic trainers. The purpose of this entry-level certification program is to establish standards for entry into the profession of athletic training. Additionally, the BOC has established the continuing education requirements that a certified athletic trainer must satisfy in order to maintain current status as a BOC certified athletic trainer. The Board of Certification's strategic plan cites strategic objective one "...create a national practice standard within all 50 states recognizing the BOC exam as the standard," to ensure public protection.⁶

Annually, the Board of Certification reviews the requirements for certification eligibility and standards for continuing education. Additionally, the Board reviews and revises the certification examination in accordance with the test specifications of the BOC Role Delineation Study that is reviewed and revised

⁶ Online at the Board on Certification for Athletic Trainers at: <http://www.bocatc.org/athtrainer/DEFINE/>

every five years. The Board of Certification uses a criterion-referenced passing point for the anchor form of the examination. Each new examination version is equated to the anchor version to ensure that candidates are not rewarded or penalized for taking different versions of the examination.

The National Certification of Athletic Trainers Examination is recognized in 40 states.

National Examination and Emergency Cardiac Care Certification

Candidates must graduate from an entry-level Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs Accredited Athletic Training Curriculum Program. Candidates must pass a three-part national certification examination. The three parts are: written, stimulation, and practical. The three parts examine the knowledge and skills necessary to assess competency in the six athletic training domains in different formats.

Until recently, the requirement to complete Section 3 of the exam application was to possess a current CPR Certification card. This has been updated to require Emergency Cardiac Care Certification (ECCC). ECCC must be current and include the following: adult & pediatric CPR, airway obstruction, 2nd rescuer CPR, AED and barrier devices (e.g., pocket mask, bag valve mask). Examples of courses that provide the ECCC certification are: CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer by the American Red Cross or BLS Healthcare Provider CPR by the American Heart Association, which use the standards of the International Guidelines 2000 for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care. An EMT card may be substituted for the requirement.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 468.701, F.S., to revise definitions and expand the scope of athletic activity and athletic training.

Section 2. Amends s. 468.707, F.S., to revise licensure requirements and remove the following: all coursework requirements; standard first aid; directly supervised athletic training experience; the age requirement; requirement to practice athletic training 3 of the 5 years preceding application for licensure; and certification by the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

Section 3. Amends s. 468.711, F.S., to revise licensure requirements for continuing education by removing the requirement to complete 4 hours in standard first aid.

Section 4. Amends s. 468.717, F.S., to provide stricter enforcement grounds for practicing athletic training without a license by removing the provision related to acts associated with compensation.

Section 5. Amends s. 468.723, F.S., to remove an exemption provision relating to teacher apprentice trainers and teacher athletic trainers.

Section 6. Amends s. 1012.46, F.S., to provide for the replacement of teacher athletic trainers by licensed athletic trainers and that a first responder may not purport to be an athletic trainer without being licensed as an athletic trainer.

Section 7. Provides that the bill takes effect on July 1, 2005.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenue.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

No additional rulemaking authority is required to implement the provisions of this bill.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Concern was raised that this bill will remove several regulations related to the standards of the profession of athletic training in Florida.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES