

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/CS/HB 1539

Certification of Public School Athletic Coaches

SPONSOR(S): Fresen

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 2066

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	PreK-12 Policy Committee	12 Y, 0 N, As CS	Fay	Ahearn
2)	Education Policy Council	(ref. removed)		
3)	PreK-12 Appropriations Committee	(ref. removed)		
4)	Policy Council	23 Y, 0 N, As CS	Phillips	Hogge
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Currently, the DOE administers the certification competencies and certification requirements for school-based personnel in State Board Rule. However, district school boards may, as part of their master inservice plan, develop and provide add-on certification courses (inservice instruction) to satisfy some of the state certification requirements. Florida law does not dictate a specific course for satisfying DOE certification competencies and requirements or district school board inservice instruction.

An individual who is employed as an athletic coach in a Florida public school must hold one of three certifications: 1) a temporary certificate; 2) a professional certificate; or, 3) an athletic coaching certificate.

The first two certification types required for employment as an athletic coach may be earned in any instructional or administration area not related to coaching. As a result, some districts may require that a person holding a temporary or professional certificate earn an athletic coaching endorsement to coach in their district.

Unlike for other inservice courses, the bill establishes in law specific parameters for an inservice sports safety course that school districts may incorporate as part of their master inservice plan to meet course work requirements for certification if employed as an athletic coach. In addition, the course must be approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors (FHSAA), rather than by the school district. Nevertheless, a school district does have the option of whether or not to include this inservice course in their master plan.

Under the bill, successful completion of this course will meet six [clock] hours of school district instruction for athletic coaching certification addressing “[t]he care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use.”

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The bill is effective July 1, 2009.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Currently, the DOE administers the certification competencies and certification requirements for school-based personnel in State Board Rule. However, district school boards may, as part of their master inservice plan, develop and provide add-on certification courses (inservice instruction) to satisfy some of the state certification requirements. Florida law does not dictate a specific course for satisfying DOE certification competencies and requirements or district school board inservice instruction.

An individual who is employed as an athletic coach in a Florida public school must hold one of three certifications; 1) a temporary certificate; 2) a professional certificate; or, 3) an athletic coaching certificate.¹ Prior to the expiration of a current valid certificate or to apply for a new certificate, a person must meet specific state certification requirements and submit a timely application to the Department of Education (DOE).

The first two certification types required for employment as an athletic coach is a temporary (nonrenewable) or professional certificate (renewable) and valid for three or five years, respectively. Both certificates may be earned in any instructional or administrative area not related to coaching. As a result, some districts require that a person holding a temporary or professional certificate earn an athletic coaching endorsement to coach. To receive a coaching endorsement if holding a temporary or professional certificate, a person must, among other state requirements, complete nine semester hours in athletic coaching. Within this requirement, three semester hours -- or 60 inservice points -- must be "[i]n the care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use."

The third of the three valid certificate types required for employment as an athletic coach is an athletic coaching certificate. This certificate may be either valid for three or five years. In the case of an individual holding a three-year coaching certificate, such certificate is non-renewable. As a result, to remain employed as an athletic coach after the expiration of the three-year athletic coach certificate the individual must earn a five-year athletic coaching certificate. The five-year athletic coach certificate is renewable. As with the coaching endorsement requirement, to earn a five-year athletic coaching certificate, a person must, among other state requirements, complete nine semester hours in athletic coaching. Within this requirement, three semester hours -- or 60 inservice points -- must be "[i]n the care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use."

¹ Section 1012.55(2), F.S.

Temporary or Professional Certificate

Florida offers two types of Educator Certificates, a temporary (nonrenewable) and a professional certificate (renewable). These certificates, while treated similarly with respect to the ability to be employed as an athletic coach in a Florida public school, vary in the validity period as well as the state certification requirements. Since this bill addresses only the requirements as they relate to being employed as an athletic coach, the various specific requirements to obtain the temporary or professional certificate are not detailed in this analysis. Nevertheless, information regarding the athletic coaching endorsement is applicable to this bill.

Athletic Coaching Endorsement

A person holding a temporary or professional teaching certificate may be required by his or her school district to earn an athletic coaching endorsement in order to be an athletic coach in that district. The requirements to receive an athletic coaching endorsement are exactly like the requirements for receiving a five-year athletic coaching certificate -- a person must complete nine semester hours in athletic coaching which must include: three semester hours in the care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use; three semester hours in coaching theory; and a course in theory and practice of coaching a specific sport.²

The athletic coaching endorsement also requires the completion of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course or the receipt of a certificate by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross; or an equivalent course or certificate issued by an entity approved by the Florida Department of Health.

Athletic Coaching Certificate

Three Year

A three-year athletic coaching certificate requires a prospective athletic coach to submit a fingerprint report (for a background screening) and complete an application provided by the Department of Education's Bureau of Educator Certification. This coaching certificate does not require athletic coaching course work.³ A three-year coaching certificate is non-renewable. Therefore, in order to continue coaching after three years, such a certificate holder must earn a five-year athletic coaching certificate.

Five-Year

A five-year athletic coaching certificate requires an individual to complete an application, submit a fingerprint report (for a background screening), and complete nine hours of athletic coaching course work prescribed by the State Board of Education⁴ to include:

- Three semester hours in care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use;
- Three semester hours in coaching theory; and
- A course in theory and practice of coaching a specific sport.⁵

The five-year athletic coaching certificate also requires the completion of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course or the receipt of a certificate by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross; or an equivalent course or certificate issued by an entity approved by the Florida Department of Health.⁶

² Rule 6A-4.0282, F.S.

³ Rule 6A-4.004, F.A.C.; rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C. The request for a temporary certificate requires a seventy-five dollar application fee.

⁴ See section 1012.55, F.S.; rule 6A-4.004(4)(b), F.A.C.

⁵ Rule 6A-4.0282(2), F.A.C.

⁶ Rule 6A-4.0282(3), F.A.C.; Rule 64J-1.022, F.A.C.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation or advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) courses, accredited by the continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services, are equivalent to CPR or ACLS courses conducted by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross. Any public or private entities desiring to conduct CPR or ACLS courses equivalent to those conducted by the American heart Association or American Red Cross must have the courses accredited.⁷

School District Inservice Instruction

School districts may provide inservice instruction to meet course work requirements for certification. Such instruction is developed at the district level as its master inservice plan, approved by the district school board and submitted to DOE for review and approval. Therefore, a school district may provide inservice instruction to meet the nine hours of course work required to obtain a five-year athletic coaching certificate or an athletic coaching endorsement.⁸ One clock hour of inservice instruction equals one inservice point. One semester hour equals 20 inservice points; therefore, three semester hours equals 60 inservice points.⁹

Effect of Proposed Changes

Unlike for other inservice courses, the bill establishes in law specific parameters for an inservice sports safety course that school districts may incorporate as part of their master inservice plan to meet course work requirements for certification if employed as an athletic coach. In addition, the course must be approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors (FHSAA), rather than by the school district. Nevertheless, a school district does have the option of whether or not to include this inservice course in their master plan.

Under the bill, successful completion of this course will meet six [clock] hours of school district instruction for athletic coaching certification addressing “[t]he care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use.” A “merit” certificate provided by the course vendor provides proof that the student successfully completed the course with an 80% or better test score.

The sports safety course must:

- Include hands-on (less than 120 pages and taught by a health care professional) and online teaching methods;
- Consist of eight modules;
- Be taught by a state-licensed athletic trainer holding a certificate from the Board of Certification (BOC) or a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons;
- Be authored or approved by at least 10 health care professionals, including medical doctors, osteopathic doctors, registered nurses, physical therapists and certified athletic trainers;
- Be reviewed and updated at least every 30 months;
- Cost less than \$50 per person;
- Be specific to sports safety, excluding coaching principles and procedures for cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and,
- Provide for an automated online exam.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 1012.55, F.S.; providing that completion of a sports safety course shall meet certain certification requirements; requiring the sports safety course be approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors; and, establishing specific parameters for the inservice sports safety course.

⁷ Rule 6A-4.004, F.A.C.

⁸ Sections 1012.56(8) (Professional Preparation Alternative Certification and Education Competency Program) and 1012.575, F.S. (Alternative preparation programs for certified teachers to add additional coverage.)

⁹ Rule 6A-5.071(6), F.A.C.

Section 2: Provides for an effective date of July 1, 2009.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government expenditures.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not appear to require a city or county to expend funds or take any action requiring the expenditure of funds. The bill does not appear to reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate. The bill does not appear to reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Although the bill does not specify "clock" hours, existing law regarding district inservice programs specifies clock hours required to earn inservice points through district inservice instruction. The six [clock] hours of inservice instruction earned in the sports safety course will satisfy six (6) of the 60 inservice points that can be used to satisfy the three semester hour requirement "[i]n the care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use."

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 25, 2009, the PreK-12 Policy Committee met and reported the bill favorable with a Committee Substitute (CS).

The CS, unlike the original bill, specifies that the sports safety course is to be provided through school district inservice instruction.

On April 20, 2009, the Policy Council favorably reported the Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute. The CS/CS differs from the original bill in that it requires the course be taught by a state-licensed athletic trainer who holds a current certificate from the Board of Certification. The other requirement allowed a health care professional who was a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association to teach the course. The amendment did not affect the ability of a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons to also teach the course.