

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1539

Certification of Public School Athletic Coaches

SPONSOR(S): Fresen

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 2066

| | REFERENCE | ACTION | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR |
|----|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1) | <u>PreK-12 Policy Committee</u> | <u></u> | <u>Fay</u> | <u>Ahearn</u> |
| 2) | <u>Education Policy Council</u> | <u></u> | <u></u> | <u></u> |
| 3) | <u>PreK-12 Appropriations Committee</u> | <u></u> | <u></u> | <u></u> |
| 4) | <u></u> | <u></u> | <u></u> | <u></u> |
| 5) | <u></u> | <u></u> | <u></u> | <u></u> |

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

An individual who is employed and renders service as an athletic coach in a Florida public school must hold a valid five-year athletic coaching certificate, professional certificate with athletic coaching endorsement, or temporary three-year certificate. A five-year athletic coaching certificate and a professional certificate require nine hours of athletic coaching course work to be completed.

The bill allows a prospective athletic coach to complete a sports safety course to satisfy six of the nine hours of athletic coaching course work required. The Florida High School Athletic Association must approve of the sports safety course, and the course must also satisfy additional requirements.

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

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

An individual who is employed and renders service as an athletic coach in a Florida public school must hold a valid five-year athletic coaching certificate, professional certificate with athletic coaching endorsement, or temporary three-year certificate.¹

Five-Year Athletic Coaching Certification

A five-year, renewable, athletic coaching certificate requires an individual to complete an application, submit a finger print report, and complete nine hours of athletic coaching course work prescribed by the State Board of Education.² The required athletic coaching course work includes:

- 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.³

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.⁴

Professional Certification with Athletic Coaching Endorsement

A professional certificate is the highest type of full-time certificate issued by the State.⁵ Florida law provides an extensive list of requirements for an individual to obtain a professional certificate.⁶ An

¹ Section 1012.55(2), F.S.

² See section 1012.55(1); rule 6A-4.004(4)(b), F.A.C.

³ Rule 6A-4.0282(2), F.A.C.

⁴ Rule 6A-4.0282(3), F.A.C.; rule 64J-1.022, F.A.C.

⁵ Section 1012.56, F.S.

⁶ See section 1012.56, F.S.

individual with a professional certificate may coach athletics if he or she completes the athletic coaching course work⁷ prescribed by the State Board of Education.⁸

Three-Year Athletic Coaching Certification

A three-year temporary certificate requires a prospective athletic coach to submit a finger print report and complete an application provided by the Department of Education's Bureau of Educator Certification. The temporary certificate does not require athletic coaching course work.⁹ However, an athletic coach with a temporary certificate may obtain a five-year athletic coaching certificate by completing the athletic coaching course work¹⁰ required by the State Board of Education.¹¹

Proposed Changes

The bill allows a prospective athletic coach to complete a sports safety course to satisfy six of the nine hours required for an athletic coaching certificate or endorsement. The sports safety course must:

- Be approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors;
- Consist of at least eight modules;¹²
- Be delivered through hands-on and online teaching methods;
- Limit hands-on course material to less than 120 pages;
- Have a health care professional, either a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association or a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, to teach the hands-off portion of the class;
- Exclude coaching principles and procedures for cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- Be authorized or approved by at least 10 health care professionals, including doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, registered nurses, physical therapists, and certified athletic trainers;
- Be revised and reviewed for updates at least once every 30 months;
- Be available to the general public for a retail price under \$50;
- Require each sports safety course examination to be automated and taken online with a score of 80 percent or better for successful completion; and
- Provide the individual with a "merit" certificate at the time of successful completion.

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 to be approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and to meet specified requirements.

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.

⁷ See *infra* note 3 and accompanying text.

⁸ Rule 6A-4.004(6), F.A.C.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ See *infra* note 3 and accompanying text.

¹¹ Rule 6A-4.004(6), F.A.C.

¹² The term "modules" is not defined.

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.

3. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

N/A.