

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: 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			
3)	PreK-12 Appropriations Committee			
4)				
5)				

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, a professional or temporary certificate, or a temporary three-year coaching certificate.

A temporary three-year coaching certificate may only be issued once. Therefore, in order to continue coaching after three years, a person with a temporary coaching certificate must earn a five-year athletic coaching certificate. In addition, a person holding a regular 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. To receive a five-year athletic coaching certificate or a coaching endorsement, a person must, among other things, complete nine semester hours in athletic coaching, three semester hours -- or 60 inservice points -- of which must be "in the care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use." School districts may provide inservice instruction to meet these requirements.

The bill allows a person holding a temporary three-year coaching certificate who seeks a five-year athletic coaching certificate, or a person with a professional or temporary certificate who seeks an athletic coaching endorsement, to complete a sports safety course offered by the school district. This sports safety course satisfies six clock hours of school district inservice instruction. Participation in one clock hour of inservice instruction equals one inservice point. Therefore, the six clock hours of inservice instruction earned in the sports safety course will satisfy 6 of the 60 inservice points that can be used to satisfy the three semester hour requirement "in the care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use."

The Florida High School Athletic Association must approve the sports safety course, and the course must also meet certain 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, a professional or temporary certificate, or a temporary three-year coaching certificate.¹

Temporary Three-Year Athletic Coaching Certificate

A temporary 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. The temporary coaching certificate does not require athletic coaching course work.² A temporary coaching certificate may only be issued once. Therefore, in order to continue coaching after three years, a temporary certificate holder must earn a five-year athletic coaching certificate.

Five-Year Athletic Coaching Certificate

A five-year, renewable, 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 Education³ 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.⁴

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

¹ Section 1012.55(2), F.S.

² 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.

³ See section 1012.55, F.S.; rule 6A-4.004(4)(b), F.A.C.

⁴ Rule 6A-4.0282(2), F.A.C.

American Red Cross; or an equivalent course or certificate issued by an entity approved by the Florida Department of Health.⁵

Athletic Coaching Endorsement

A person holding a regular 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.⁶

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.

School District Inservice Instruction

School districts may provide inservice instruction to meet course work requirements for certification. 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.⁷

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.⁸

Effect of Proposed Changes

To receive a five-year athletic coaching certificate or a coaching endorsement, a person must, among other things, complete nine semester hours in athletic coaching, three semester hours -- or 60 inservice points -- of which must be in the care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use. School districts may provide inservice instruction.

The bill allows a person holding a temporary coaching certificate who seeks a five-year athletic coaching certificate, or a person who seeks an athletic coaching endorsement, to complete six clock hours of school district inservice instruction in a sports safety course in order to gain such certifications.

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 6 of the 60 inservice points that can be used to satisfy the three semester hour requirement "in the care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use." One semester hour of course work equals 20 inservice points; therefore, three semester hours equal 60 inservice points.

The sports safety course must:

- Be approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors;
- Consist of at least eight modules;⁹
- Be delivered through hands-on and online teaching methods;

⁵ Rule 6A-4.0282(3), F.A.C.; rule 64J-1.022, F.A.C.

⁶ Rule 6A-4.0282, F.S.

⁷ 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.)

⁸ Rule 6A-5.071(6), F.A.C.

⁹ The term "modules" is not defined.

- 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.

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:

None.

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 bill, specifies that the sports safety course is to be provided through school district in-service instruction.