

HB 1539

2009

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to certification of public school athletic
3 coaches; amending s. 1012.55, F.S.; providing that
4 completion of a sports safety course shall meet certain
5 certification requirements; requiring the sports safety
6 course to be approved by the Florida High School Athletic
7 Association Board of Directors and to meet specified
8 requirements; providing an effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 1012.55, Florida
13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.--

15 (2) (a) Each person who is employed and renders service as
16 an athletic coach in any public school in any district of this
17 state shall hold a valid temporary or professional certificate
18 or an athletic coaching certificate. The athletic coaching
19 certificate may be used for either part-time or full-time
20 positions. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to any
21 athletic coach who voluntarily renders service and who is not
22 employed by any public school district of this state.

23 (b) Completion of a sports safety course shall count for 6
24 hours of required instruction for athletic coaching
25 certification if the course is approved by the Florida High
26 School Athletic Association Board of Directors and meets the
27 following requirements:

28 1. The course consists of at least eight modules.

29 2. The course immediately provides an individual with a
30 "merit" certificate at the time of successful completion.

31 3. The course is delivered through hands-on and online
32 teaching methods.

33 4. A hands-on course is taught by a health care
34 professional who is either a member of the National Athletic
35 Trainers' Association or a member of the American Academy of
36 Orthopaedic Surgeons.

37 5. Hands-on course material is less than 120 pages.

38 6. The course covers sports safety specifically, excluding
39 coaching principles and procedures for cardiopulmonary
40 resuscitation.

41 7. The course is authored or approved by at least 10
42 health care professionals, including doctors of medicine,
43 doctors of osteopathy, registered nurses, physical therapists,
44 and certified athletic trainers.

45 8. The course is revised and reviewed for updates at least
46 once every 30 months.

47 9. The course is available to the general public for a
48 retail price under \$50.

49 10. Each course examination is automated and taken online
50 with a score of 80 percent or better for successful completion.

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.