

ENROLLED  
CS/CS/HB 1539

2009 Legislature

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           inservice certification requirements; requiring the sports  
6           safety course to be approved by the Florida High School  
7           Athletic Association Board of Directors and to meet  
8           specified 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 school district inservice instruction for  
25   athletic coaching certification if the course is approved by the  
26   Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and  
27   meets the following requirements:

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

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- 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. The course is a hands-on course taught by either a  
 34 state-licensed athletic trainer who holds a current certificate  
 35 from the Board of Certification or a member of the American  
 36 Academy of 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.