

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations Committee

BILL: CS/CS/SB 2066

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K-12 Appropriations Committee, Education Pre-K-12 Committee and Senator Haridopolos

SUBJECT: Public School Athletic Coaches/Certification

DATE: April 20, 2009 **REVISED:** _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	demarsh-Mathues	Matthews	ED	Fav/CS
2.	Armstrong	Hamon	EA	Fav/CS
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please see Section VIII. for Additional Information:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| A. COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Statement of Substantial Changes |
| B. AMENDMENTS..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Technical amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amendments were recommended |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Significant amendments were recommended |

I. Summary:

The bill provides that the completion of a sports safety course meets six hours of required district inservice instruction for athletic coaching certification, if the course is approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and the course meets specific requirements.

This bill amends s. 1012.55 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Current law requires an individual who is employed as an athletic coach in a Florida public school to hold a valid five-year athletic coaching certificate, professional certificate with athletic coaching endorsement, or a temporary three-year certificate.¹

¹ s. 1012.55(2), F.S.

A five-year, renewable, athletic coaching certificate requires an individual to hold a certificate in another subject area and to complete nine semester hours of athletic coaching course work, including:²

- 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.³

The five-year athletic coaching certification requirements also include a valid card or certificate that indicates completion of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or an equivalent course from an entity approved by the Florida Department of Health.⁴

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation or advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) courses, which have been 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.⁵

An individual who wishes to obtain a three-year temporary certificate does not have to complete athletic coaching course work.⁶

For a certified teacher already employed by a district, the more common approach for athletic coaching certification is to obtain the endorsement by participating in the district master inservice training program and earn 180 inservice points (clock hours).⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Under the bill, completion of a sports safety course counts for six hours (six inservice points) of required district in-service instruction for athletic coaching certification, if the course is approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and meets the following requirements:

- Consists of at least 8 modules;
- Immediately provides an individual with a “merit” certificate at the time of successful completion;
- Is delivered through hands-on and online teaching methods, with hands-on course material that are less than 120 pages;

² 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. and Rule 64J-1.022, F.A.C.

⁵ Rule 6A-4.004, F.A.C.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ 20 district inservice points (clock hours) = one semester hour; therefore, 180 inservice points = 9 semester hours.

- Covers sports safety specifically, excluding coaching principles and procedures for cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- Is authored or approved by at least 10 health care professionals; and
- Is subject to revision and reviewed at least once every 30 months.

The course must be available to the general public for under \$50. The hands-on course must be taught by a current Board of Certification certified and state licensed athletic trainer or a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Each course examination must be taken online and an individual must score eighty percent or better for successful completion.

The DOE notes that a district school board has the option to approve a commercial vendor to offer training as part of its approved add-on certification program or to accept the completion of a commercial course to satisfy part of the add-on program. A school district staff development director has the expertise to evaluate the course to determine acceptability and inservice equivalency.⁸

The DOE indicates that the “merit” certificate provided at course completion is not the same as the cardiopulmonary resuscitation course certificate issued by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross required under State Board Rule 6A-4.0282 for the athletic coaching endorsement provided by postsecondary institutions. Also, although the term “health care professional” is not defined in the bill, the bill does provide a list of health care professionals who could author or approve the course.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

⁸ Florida Department of Education, Bill Analysis, March 23, 2009.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill has no state fiscal impact. The bill limits the course fee to less than \$50 per individual. School districts generally bear the cost of inservice training for their instructional staff. If the course became part of the district's inservice training program, district professional development funds could be used to pay for the course.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

- A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education Pre-K-12 Appropriations on April 20, 2009:

Clarifies that the sports safety course is to be taught by a current Board of Certification certified and state-licensed athletic trainer or a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

CS by Education Pre-K-12 on March 26, 2009:

The committee substitute provides that the sport safety course counts for 6 hours of required district in-service instruction.

- B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.⁹

⁹ Florida Department of Education, Bill Analysis, March 23, 2009.

⁹ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*