

House Bill 278

By: Representatives LaHood of the 175th, Buckner of the 137th, Powell of the 33rd, and Corbett of the 174th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 athletic trainers, so as to revise and update definitions; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to
3 require athletic training students to be under the direct supervision of a physician or licensed
4 athletic trainer; to revise and update certification requirements; to provide for related matters;
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 5 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to athletic trainers,
9 is amended by revising Code Section 43-5-1, relating to definitions, as follows:

10 "43-5-1.

11 As used in this chapter, the term:

12 (1) 'Athletic injury' means any injury condition sustained by a person as a result of such
13 person's participation in ~~exercises, sports, games, or recreational activities, or any~~
14 activities requiring physical strength, agility, flexibility, range of motion, speed, or
15 stamina without respect to where or how the injury condition occurs. Nothing in this
16 paragraph shall be construed to expand the scope of practice of an athletic trainer beyond

17 the determination of the advising and consenting physician as provided for in paragraph
18 (2) of this Code section.

19 (2) 'Athletic trainer' means a person with specific qualifications, as set forth in Code
20 Sections 43-5-7 and 43-5-8 who, upon the advice and consent of a physician, carries out
21 the practice of prevention, recognition, evaluation, management, disposition, treatment,
22 or rehabilitation of athletic injuries; and, in carrying out these functions, the athletic
23 trainer is authorized to use physical modalities, such as heat, light, sound, cold,
24 electricity, or mechanical devices related to prevention, recognition, evaluation,
25 management, disposition, rehabilitation, and treatment. ~~Nothing in this Code section~~
26 ~~shall be construed to require licensure of elementary or secondary school teachers,~~
27 ~~coaches, or authorized volunteers who do not hold themselves out to the public as athletic~~
28 ~~trainers.~~

29 (3) 'Board' means the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers.

30 (4) 'Direct supervision' means that the supervising athletic trainer or physician is
31 physically present in the facility where athletic training students are performing services,
32 is immediately available to assist the person being supervised in the services being
33 performed, and maintains continued involvement in appropriate aspects of the services
34 being performed."

35 SECTION 2.

36 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-5-6, relating to general powers
37 and duties of the Georgia Board for Athletic trainers, as follows:

38 "43-5-6.

39 (a) The board is authorized to promulgate and adopt rules and regulations consistent with
40 this chapter which are necessary for the performance of its duties.

41 (b) The board shall prescribe application forms for license applications.

- 42 (c) The board shall establish guidelines for athletic trainers in the state and ~~prepare and~~
43 ~~conduct an~~ approve a certification examination for applicants for a license.
- 44 (d) The board shall adopt an official seal and the form of a license certificate of suitable
45 design."

46 **SECTION 3.**

47 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-5-7, relating to license
48 requirements for persons engaged as athletic trainers, as follows:

49 "43-5-7.

50 No person shall hold himself or herself out as an athletic trainer or perform the services of
51 an athletic trainer, as defined in this chapter, without first obtaining a license under this
52 chapter; provided, however, that nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent any
53 person enrolled in an accredited athletic training educational program recognized by the
54 board from serving as ~~a student-trainer, assistant-trainer, or any similar position~~ an athletic
55 training student if such service is ~~not primarily for compensation and~~ is carried out under
56 the direct supervision of a physician or a licensed athletic trainer."

57 **SECTION 4.**

58 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-5-8, relating to qualifications
59 of applicants and reciprocity, as follows:

60 "43-5-8.

61 ~~(a) An applicant for an athletic trainer's license must have met the athletic training~~
62 ~~curriculum requirements of a college or university approved by the board and give proof~~
63 ~~of graduation.~~

64 ~~(b)~~(a) The board shall be authorized to grant a license, without examination, to any
65 qualified athletic trainer holding a license in another state if such other state recognizes
66 licensees of this state in the same manner.

67 ~~(c)~~(b) The board may grant a license without examination to any qualified applicant who
68 holds a certification from the ~~National Athletic Trainers Board of Certification~~ Board of
69 Certification (BOC) or its successor.

70 ~~(d) Any person who was issued a license prior to July 1, 2004, shall remain qualified for~~
71 ~~licensure, notwithstanding the requirement for proof of graduation in subsection (a) of this~~
72 ~~Code section, so long as the license remains current."~~

73 **SECTION 5.**

74 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.