

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1446

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman ERIK K. SIMONSEN**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Revises “Athletic Training Licensure Act.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Regulated Professions Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/8/2024)**

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2

1 AN ACT concerning athletic training, revising various parts of the  
2 statutory law and repealing section 7 of P.L.1984, c.203.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.36) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 2. As used in this act:

10 a. "Advisory committee" means the Athletic Training Advisory  
11 Committee established in section 5 of P.L.1984, c.203  
12 (C.45:9-37.39);

13 b. **["Athlete" means an individual who participates in strenuous  
14 physical exercise, physical conditioning, or a sport;]** (Deleted by  
15 amendment, P.L. , c. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)

16 c. "Athletic trainer" means a person who practices athletic  
17 training;

18 d. "Athletic training" means and includes **[the practice of  
19 physical conditioning and reconditioning of athletes and the  
20 prevention of injuries incurred by athletes]** but is not limited to: the  
21 treatment of an individual for injury prevention and health  
22 management; the athletic training evaluation and assessment of an  
23 individual for an injury or illness, or both; and the rehabilitation and  
24 reconditioning of an individual's injury or illness, or both, as  
25 recommended by the advisory committee and defined in regulations  
26 by the board. Athletic training shall also include the application of  
27 physical treatment modalities to **[athletes]** individuals under a plan  
28 of care designed and overseen by a physician licensed in this State,  
29 as recommended by the advisory committee and defined in  
30 regulations by the board;

31 e. "Board" means the State Board of Medical Examiners;

32 f. "Supervision" means that a physician licensed in this State is  
33 accessible to an athletic trainer, either on-site **[or through]**, by voice,  
34 or electronic communication, during athletic training;

35 g. "BOC" means the Board of Certification, Inc.; and

36 h. "CAATE" means the Commission on Accreditation of  
37 Athletic Training Education.

38 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.1)

39

40 2. Section 3 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.37) is amended to  
41 read as follows:

42 3. a. No person shall practice or hold himself out as being able  
43 to practice athletic training in this State unless licensed in accordance  
44 with the provisions of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.).

45 b. **[A licensed athletic trainer may provide athletic training only:**

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 (1) (a) to athletes engaged in interscholastic, intercollegiate, or  
2 intramural athletic activities which are being conducted by an  
3 educational institution licensed in this State; or (b) to professional  
4 athletes; or

5 (2) to athletes in any setting when the athletic trainer is under the  
6 supervision of a physician licensed in this State] Nothing in  
7 P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) shall be construed to authorize  
8 the interpretation of data for the purpose of diagnosing disease,  
9 organic condition or the practice of medicine and surgery,  
10 chiropractic, podiatry, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or  
11 prosthetics by a person who is not licensed to practice as such  
12 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

13 c. An athletic trainer shall immediately refer an **[athlete]**  
14 individual to an appropriate health care professional licensed in this  
15 State if the athletic trainer has reasonable cause to believe that  
16 athletic training is contraindicated or symptoms or conditions are  
17 present that require services outside the scope of an athletic trainer's  
18 practice.

19 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.2)

20

21 3. Section 6 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.40) is amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 6. a. Beginning on the effective date of P.L.2001, c.156, it shall  
24 be unlawful for any person, other than an athletic trainer licensed  
25 pursuant to P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) to practice athletic  
26 training in this State unless licensed in accordance with the  
27 provisions of this act. Nothing in this act, however, shall prohibit any  
28 person licensed to practice in this State under any other law from  
29 engaging in the practice for which he is licensed.

30 b. This act shall not prohibit: a candidate for licensure as an  
31 athletic trainer from accumulating the mandated number of hours of  
32 supervised clinical experience under the direction of a licensed  
33 athletic trainer; a student enrolled in a school or educational program  
34 of athletic training approved by the board from performing acts of  
35 athletic training incidental to the course of study, if the performance  
36 is under the direction of a licensed athletic trainer; a student in any  
37 educational program in the healing arts approved or accredited under  
38 the laws of this State from carrying out prescribed courses of study;  
39 a person employed by any agency, bureau or division of the federal  
40 government from discharging his official duties; or a person in  
41 connection with employment as an athletic trainer by a nonresident  
42 **[athlete]** individual, educational institution or recognized athletic  
43 organization temporarily visiting in this State, from practicing  
44 athletic training for a period not to exceed 90 days in one calendar  
45 year provided he is lawfully permitted to work as an athletic trainer  
46 in the state of residence of his employer.

1 c. The provisions of this act are not intended to limit the  
2 activities of persons legitimately engaged in the administration of  
3 nontherapeutic baths, massage and normal exercise.

4 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.4)

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6 4. Section 10 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.44) is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 10. a. On payment to the board of the application fee as provided  
9 in section 14 of **【this act】** P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48), and upon  
10 approval of the application, the board shall issue a license to any  
11 person who successfully passes the examination provided in section  
12 9 of **【this act】** P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.43).

13 b. The licensee shall display, or carry on the licensee's person if  
14 displaying is not possible, a practicing license at any place the  
15 licensee renders services.

16 c. Any license displayed pursuant to subsection b. of this section  
17 may be displayed in a manner which prevents the public display of  
18 the licensee's home address, provided that the license is not  
19 permanently defaced or altered, and the license and all the  
20 information contained thereon, including the address of record, can  
21 be presented upon the request of a person conducting an  
22 investigation.

23 (cf: P.L.2001, c.156, s.7)

24  
25 5. Section 8 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.42) is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 8. An applicant for licensure as an athletic trainer shall submit  
28 evidence to the board, in the form the board may prescribe, that the  
29 applicant:

30 a. Is 18 years of age or older;

31 b. Is of good moral character and does not engage in the habitual  
32 use of alcohol, narcotics or other habit forming drugs;

33 c. Is a graduate of a high school approved by the Department of  
34 Education or has obtained equivalent education acceptable to the  
35 board; and

36 d. Has met the athletic training curriculum requirements of a  
37 college or university approved by the board and provides proof of  
38 graduation or has successfully completed a program **【of**  
39 **【of baccalaureate education and】** that led to a degree in professional  
40 athletic training **【and experience approved by the board】** from a  
41 postsecondary educational institution that meets the academic  
42 standards for athletic trainers established by the CAATE or its  
43 successor organization and provides proof of its completion. The  
44 board, in establishing, altering or amending the standards for  
45 approving curricula and courses of study in institutions which **【grant**  
46 **【grant baccalaureate degrees】** offer degrees in professional athletic training  
47 and which are accredited by **【a regional accreditation agency**

1 recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation or the  
2 United States Department of Education **】** the CAATE or its successor  
3 organization shall consult with the Department of Education and the  
4 advisory committee. The board, in establishing, altering, or amending  
5 the standards for approving programs **【**of baccalaureate education  
6 **and】** in professional athletic training and experience shall consult  
7 with the advisory committee. Both the curriculum and the program  
8 shall include courses of study in the biophysical sciences for the use  
9 of physical agents and medical-surgical techniques **【**as related to  
10 athletics**】**.

11 (cf: P.L.2001, c.156, s.5)

12

13 6. Section 9 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.43) is amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 9. An applicant who complies with the qualifications for  
16 licensure shall successfully complete the examination administered  
17 by the **【**National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of  
18 Certification, Inc.**】** BOC, or its successor organization, or a  
19 substantially equivalent examination approved by the board. The  
20 examination shall test the applicant's knowledge of the basic and  
21 clinical sciences that are pertinent to athletic training, emergency  
22 care of the injured individual and principles of injury evaluation and  
23 conditioning, including the use of various physical modalities and  
24 exercise techniques. The examination shall be administered within  
25 the State no less than once each year at a time and place the board  
26 shall designate.

27 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.5)

28

29 7. Section 11 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.45) is amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 11. On payment to the board of the application fee as provided in  
32 section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48), and upon approval of  
33 a written application or application for renewal, as the case may be,  
34 on forms provided by the board, the board shall issue, without  
35 examination, a license to any person who:

36 a. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2001, c.156).

37 b. Is licensed, certified or registered as an athletic trainer in any  
38 other state or territory of the United States or the District of  
39 Columbia, if the requirements for licensure, certification or  
40 registration were at the time of the applicant's licensure, certification  
41 or registration equivalent to or in excess of the requirements of this  
42 act at the date of application for the license as shall be determined by  
43 the board in consultation with the committee; or

44 c. Is employed in or is a resident of this State and presents  
45 evidence of being certified by the **【**National Athletic Trainers'  
46 Association Board of Certification, Inc.**】** BOC, or its successor  
47 organization, as an athletic trainer; or

1 d. Is licensed as an athletic trainer pursuant to the provisions of  
2 P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) and makes a timely  
3 application for renewal, as determined by the board, prior to the  
4 expiration of his biennial license.

5 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.6)

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7 8. Section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 14. Each initial application under P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35  
10 et seq.) shall be accompanied by a fee as prescribed by the board.  
11 Licensure shall expire biennially on January 31 and shall be renewed  
12 upon application and payment of a fee as prescribed by the board. If  
13 the fee is not paid by that date the license shall automatically expire.  
14 A license which has expired may, within three years of its expiration  
15 date, be renewed on payment to the board of the prescribed  
16 reinstatement fee for each year or part thereof during which the  
17 license was ineffective and a restoration fee as prescribed by the  
18 board. After the three-year period, the license may be renewed only  
19 by complying with the provisions of this act regarding initial  
20 licensure and presenting proof of current certification by the  
21 **[National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification]**  
22 **BOC** or its successor organization.

23 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.8)

24

25 9. Section 6 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48a) is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 6. a. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall require each  
28 person licensed as an athletic trainer, as a condition for biennial  
29 license renewal pursuant to section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203  
30 (C.45:9-37.48), to complete 24 credits of continuing athletic trainer  
31 education, which shall include a specific number of credits of  
32 instruction on topics related to concussions and head injuries, as  
33 determined by the State Board of Medical Examiners.

34 b. The board shall, in conformance with the standards of the  
35 BOC or its successor organization:

36 (1) establish standards for continuing athletic trainer education,  
37 including the subject matter and content of courses of study; and

38 (2) accredit education programs offering credit toward continuing  
39 athletic trainer education requirements or recognize national or State  
40 organizations that may accredit education programs.

41 c. Each hour of an educational course or program shall be  
42 equivalent to one credit of continuing athletic trainer education.

43 d. The board may, in its discretion, waive requirements for  
44 continuing athletic trainer education on an individual basis for  
45 reasons of hardship such as illness or disability, retirement of license,  
46 or other good cause. A waiver shall apply only to the current biennial  
47 renewal period at the time of board issuance.

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1 e. The board shall not require completion of continuing athletic  
2 trainer education credits for any licensure period commencing within  
3 12 months of the effective date of this section.

4 f. The board shall require completion of athletic trainer  
5 education credits on a pro-rated basis for any registration period  
6 commencing more than 12 months but less than 24 months from the  
7 effective date of this section.

8 g. Prior to license renewal, each licensee shall submit to the  
9 board proof of completion of the required number of hours of  
10 continuing athletic trainer education.

11 (cf: P.L.2010, c.94, s.6)

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13 10. Section 7 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.41) is repealed.

14

15 11. This act shall take effect immediately.