

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-142

REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR STUDY THE MODERNIZATION OF THE ARKANSAS ATHLETIC TRAINERS ACT AND RECOMMEND CHANGES TO UPDATE THE LANGUAGE TO REFLECT MODERN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS.

WHEREAS, athletic trainers are highly qualified, multi-skilled health care professionals that must graduate from an accredited educational program and pass a comprehensive certification; and

WHEREAS, fifty (50) states, as well as Washington D.C., license or regulate the practice of athletic training; and

WHEREAS, athletic training education has made significant changes since the establishment of the Arkansas Athletic Trainers Act, § 17-93-401 et seq., in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the scope of practice of athletic trainers covers several diverse domains, including without limitation issues related to:

- (1) Risk reduction, wellness, and health literacy;
- (2) Assessment, evaluation, and diagnosis;
- (3) Critical incident management;
- (4) Therapeutic intervention; and
- (5) Healthcare administration and professional responsibility;

and

WHEREAS, athletic trainers should practice to the fullest extent of their licensure, accreditation, certification, and education for the health and safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, other individual states and the federal government employ athletic trainers in a variety of settings to treat a variety of patients; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that access to an athletic trainer saves

1 lives, improves quality of life, decreases missed workdays, and decreases
2 healthcare associated costs; and

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4 WHEREAS, to increase patient access to health care, reduce healthcare
5 costs, and promote efficient and timely health care in this state, the
6 General Assembly should modernize the scope of practice laws for athletic
7 trainers to reflect the Role Delineation Study/Practice Analysis and the most
8 recent Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education Educational
9 Standards; and

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11 WHEREAS, there is an immediate need for athletic trainers in the state
12 of Arkansas, but it is difficult to recruit to those positions because other
13 states allow a more favorable scope of practice,

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15 NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
17 OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

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19 THAT the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study
20 ways to attract more athletic trainers to the State of Arkansas by updating
21 the Arkansas Athletic Trainers Act, § 17-93-401 et seq., to reflect modern
22 educational standards of the athletic trainer, including without limitation:

- 23 (1) Populations that athletic trainers treat;
24 (2) Settings where athletic trainers work and practice;
25 (3) How athletic trainers are supervised;
26 (4) Modification of temporary licensure for athletic trainers;

27 and

- 28 (5) Fees and penalties imposed on athletic trainers.
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30 Respectfully submitted,

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34 Senator Clint Penzo

35 District 31

36 Prepared by: JMB/JMB