

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: H2/13/25

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1213

5 By: Representatives Achor, Gramlich, L. Johnson  
6 By: Senators C. Penzo, K. Hammer  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ATHLETIC TRAINERS ACT;  
10 TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF "ATHLETE" WITHIN THE  
11 ARKANSAS ATHLETIC TRAINERS ACT; TO DEFINE "HEALTHCARE  
12 PROVIDER" REGARDING STUDENT ATHLETE CONCUSSION  
13 EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

16  
17 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ATHLETIC TRAINERS  
18 ACT; TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF  
19 "ATHLETE"; AND TO DEFINE "HEALTHCARE  
20 PROVIDER" REGARDING STUDENT ATHLETE  
21 CONCUSSION EDUCATION.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-710(a), concerning definitions related  
26 to student athlete concussion education, is amended to read as follows:

27 6-18-710. Student athlete concussion education – Definition.

28 (a)~~(1)~~ As used in this section:

29 (1) "Healthcare provider" means a person who is licensed,  
30 certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to administer  
31 health care in the ordinary course of the practice of his or her profession,  
32 including without limitation a physician, doctor of osteopathic medicine,  
33 neuropsychologist, advanced practice registered nurse, certified athletic  
34 trainer, physician assistant, and physical therapist; and

35 (2)(A) "Youth ~~youth~~ athletic activity" means an organized  
36 athletic activity in which the participants, a majority of whom are under



1 nineteen (19) years of age are:

2 ~~(A)(i)~~ Engaged in an athletic game or competition against  
3 another team, club, or entity; or

4 ~~(B)(ii)~~ In practice or preparation for an organized  
5 athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity.

6 ~~(2)(B)~~ "Youth athletic activity" does not include a college or  
7 university activity or an activity that is incidental to a nonathletic  
8 program.

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10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-710(c), concerning student athlete  
11 concussion education, is amended to read as follows:

12 (c)(1) The Department of Health shall develop concussion protocols  
13 substantially similar to those developed and implemented by the Arkansas  
14 Activities Association to protect all youth athletes engaged in youth  
15 athletic activities in Arkansas.

16 (2) The Department of Health shall provide an updated healthcare  
17 provider list to the Arkansas Activities Association based on the definition  
18 under subsection (a) of this section.

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20 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-93-402 is amended to read as follows:  
21 17-93-402. Definitions.

22 As used in this subchapter:

23 (1) "Athlete" means an individual who is participating in  
24 ~~organized athletic or team activities at the interscholastic, intramural,~~  
25 ~~intercollegiate, or professional level, or sanctioned recreational sports~~  
26 ~~activities~~ activities of recreation, sport, exercise, or tactical duty;

27 (2) "Athletic injury or illness" means an injury or illness  
28 sustained by the athlete as a result of participation in ~~those organized~~  
29 ~~athletic or team activities~~ activities of recreation, sport, exercise, or  
30 tactical duty which require physical strength, agility, flexibility, range of  
31 motion, speed, or stamina, or any comparable injury or illness to an athlete  
32 which prevents the person from participating in activities described in  
33 subdivision (1) of this section;

34 (3) "Athletic trainer" means a person licensed by the state to  
35 engage in athletic training;

36 (4) "Athletic training" means the prevention, recognition,

1 evaluation, treatment, and rehabilitation of an athletic injury or illness  
2 and the organization and administration of exercise, conditioning, and  
3 athletic training programs;

4 (5) "Clinical setting" means a hospital or outpatient clinic;

5 (6)(A) "Consultation" means the rendering by a physician of a  
6 professional opinion, an expert opinion, or advice to an athletic trainer.

7 (B) "Consultation" may be provided through  
8 telecommunication technology;

9 (7)(A) "Freestanding rehabilitation clinic" means a  
10 rehabilitation clinic that is not located on the campus of a hospital or  
11 healthcare system.

12 (B) "Freestanding rehabilitation clinic" does not include  
13 a physician's office;

14 (8) "Direct supervision" means supervision of the athletic  
15 trainer in a ~~clinical setting~~ freestanding rehabilitation clinic by the  
16 supervising physical therapist ~~or physician~~ who is readily available for  
17 consultation for the care of the athlete and is on the premises;

18 ~~(7)(9)~~ (9) "Direction" means direction of the athletic trainer in a  
19 nonclinical setting or physician's office by a physician who is readily  
20 available for consultation for the care of the athlete but not necessarily on  
21 the premises;

22 ~~(8)(10)~~ (10) "License" means the document issued by the Arkansas  
23 State Board of Athletic Training to a qualified person to practice athletic  
24 training; and

25 ~~(9)~~ ~~"Sanctioned recreational sports activities" means any~~  
26 ~~athletic or team activity which requires physical strength, agility,~~  
27 ~~flexibility, range of motion, speed, or stamina and meets one (1) or more of~~  
28 ~~the following:~~

29 ~~(A) Has officially designated coaches who have the~~  
30 ~~responsibility for athletic activities of the organization;~~

31 ~~(B) Has a regular schedule of practices or workouts which~~  
32 ~~are supervised by the officially designated coaches;~~

33 ~~(C) Is an activity generally recognized as having an~~  
34 ~~established schedule of competitive events or exhibitions; and~~

35 ~~(D) Has a policy requiring documentation of having passed~~  
36 ~~a preparticipation medical examination conducted by a licensed physician as a~~

1 ~~condition for participation for the athletic activities of the organization~~  
2 (11) "Tactical duty" means activities of law enforcement,  
3 military, or rescue services.  
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5 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-93-411 is amended to read as follows:  
6 17-93-411. Direction and supervision.

7 (a) In a nonclinical setting, an athletic trainer may practice the art  
8 and science of athletic training under the direction of a physician licensed  
9 by the Arkansas State Medical Board.

10 (b)(1) ~~The athletic trainer may practice athletic training in a~~  
11 ~~hospital or outpatient clinic under the direct supervision of a physical~~  
12 ~~therapist and upon the referral of a physician licensed in the State of~~  
13 ~~Arkansas or of a physician licensed by the board~~ physician's office under the  
14 direction or consultation of a physician licensed in this state.

15 (2) However, the physician shall retain moral, ethical, and  
16 legal responsibility for patient care according to their specific medical  
17 license.

18 (c) The athletic trainer may practice athletic training in a  
19 freestanding rehabilitation clinic under the direct supervision of a physical  
20 therapist and upon the referral of a physician licensed in this state.  
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22 /s/Achor  
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