

Senate Bill No. 266

An act relating to athletic trainers; amending s. 468.707, F.S.; revising the requirements for licensure as an athletic trainer; amending s. 468.711, F.S.; revising the criteria for continuing education in athletic training; amending s. 468.723, F.S.; providing that a person employed as an apprentice trainer or athletic trainer is not exempt from part XIII of ch. 468, F.S.; amending s. 1012.46, F.S.; deleting the classification of first responder in a school district's athletic injuries prevention and treatment program; requiring that an athletic trainer employed by a school district be licensed as an athletic trainer; deleting a requirement that such person possess certain certification as an educator; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 468.707, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.707 Licensure by examination; requirements.—

(1) Any person desiring to be licensed as an athletic trainer shall apply to the department on a form approved by the department.

(a) The department shall license each applicant who:

~~(a)1.~~ Has completed the application form and remitted the required fees.

~~(b)2.~~ Is at least 21 years of age.

~~(c)3.~~ Has obtained a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the United States Department of Education or the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation, or approved by the board.

~~(d)4.~~ Has completed an approved athletic training curriculum course-work from a college or university accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the United States Department of Education or the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation, or approved by the board, in each of the following areas, as provided by rule: health, human anatomy, kinesiology/biomechanics, human physiology, physiology of exercise, basic athletic training, and advanced athletic training.

~~(e)5.~~ Has current certification in standard first aid and cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation from the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or an equivalent certification as determined by the board.

~~6.~~ Has, within 2 of the preceding 5 years, attained a minimum of 800 hours of athletic training experience under the direct supervision of a licensed athletic trainer or an athletic trainer certified by the National Athletic Trainers' Association or a comparable national athletic standards organization.

(f)7. Has passed an examination administered or approved by the board.

(b)—The department shall also license each applicant who:

1.—Has completed the application form and remitted the required fees no later than October 1, 1996.

2.—Is at least 21 years of age.

3.—Has current certification in standard first aid and cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation from the American Red Cross or an equivalent certification as determined by the board.

4.a.—Has practiced athletic training for at least 3 of the 5 years preceding application; or

b.—Is currently certified by the National Athletic Trainers' Association or a comparable national athletic standards organization.

Section 2. Section 468.711, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.711 Renewal of license; continuing education.—

(1) The department shall renew a license upon receipt of the renewal application and fee, provided the applicant is in compliance with the provisions of this section ~~part~~, chapter 456, and rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

(2) The board may, by rule, prescribe continuing education requirements, not to exceed 24 hours biennially. The criteria for continuing education shall be approved by the board and shall include a current certificate in ~~include 4 hours in standard first aid and cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation from the American Red Cross or equivalent training as determined by the board.~~

(3) Pursuant to the requirements of s. 456.034, each licensee shall complete a continuing education course on human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome as part of biennial relicensure.

Section 3. Section 468.723, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.723 Exemptions.—~~Nothing in This part does not prevent or restrict shall be construed as preventing or restricting:~~

(1) The professional practice of a licensee of the department who is acting within the scope of such practice.

(2) An athletic training ~~A student athletic trainer~~ acting under the direct supervision of a licensed athletic trainer.

~~(3) A person employed as a teacher apprentice trainer I, a teacher apprentice trainer II, or a teacher athletic trainer under s. 1012.46.~~

~~(3)~~(4) A person from administering standard first aid treatment to an athlete.

~~(4)~~(5) A person licensed under chapter 548, provided such person is acting within the scope of such license.

~~(5)~~(6) A person providing personal training instruction for exercise, aerobics, or weightlifting, if the person does not represent himself or herself as able to provide “athletic trainer” services and if any recognition or treatment of injuries is limited to the provision of first aid.

Section 4. Section 1012.46, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.46 Athletic trainers.—

(1) School districts may establish and implement an athletic injuries prevention and treatment program. Central to this program should be the employment and availability of persons trained in the prevention and treatment of physical injuries ~~that~~ which may occur during athletic activities. The program should reflect opportunities for progressive advancement and compensation in employment as provided in subsection (2) and meet certain other minimum standards developed by the Department of Education. The goal of the Legislature is to have school districts employ and have available a full-time ~~teacher~~ athletic trainer in each high school in the state.

~~(2) To the extent practicable, a school district program should include the following employment classification and advancement scheme:~~

~~(a) First responder.—To qualify as a first responder, a person must possess a professional, temporary, part-time, adjunct, or substitute certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and have 15 semester hours in courses such as care and prevention of athletic injuries, anatomy, physiology, nutrition, counseling, and other similar courses approved by the Commissioner of Education. This person may only administer first aid and similar care.~~

~~(2)(b) Teacher athletic trainer.—To qualify as an a teacher athletic trainer, a person must be licensed as required by part XIII of chapter 468 and may possess a professional, temporary, part-time, adjunct, or substitute certificate pursuant to s. 1012.35, s. 1012.56, or s. 1012.57, and be licensed as required by part XIII of chapter 468.~~

Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2006.