

Council Substitute for
Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1539

An act relating to certification of public school athletic coaches; amending s. 1012.55, F.S.; providing that completion of a sports safety course shall meet certain inservice certification requirements; requiring the sports safety course to be approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and to meet specified requirements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 1012.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.—

(2)(a) Each person who is employed and renders service as an athletic coach in any public school in any district of this state shall hold a valid temporary or professional certificate or an athletic coaching certificate. The athletic coaching certificate may be used for either part-time or full-time positions. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to any athletic coach who voluntarily renders service and who is not employed by any public school district of this state.

(b) Completion of a sports safety course shall count for 6 hours of required school district inservice instruction for athletic coaching certification if the course is approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and meets the following requirements:

1. The course consists of at least eight modules.
2. The course immediately provides an individual with a “merit” certificate at the time of successful completion.
3. The course is delivered through hands-on and online teaching methods.
4. The course is a hands-on course taught by either a state-licensed athletic trainer who holds a current certificate from the Board of Certification or a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.
5. Hands-on course material is less than 120 pages.
6. The course covers sports safety specifically, excluding coaching principles and procedures for cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
7. The course is authored or approved by at least 10 health care professionals, including doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, registered nurses, physical therapists, and certified athletic trainers.

- 8. The course is revised and reviewed for updates at least once every 30 months.
- 9. The course is available to the general public for a retail price under \$50.
- 10. Each course examination is automated and taken online with a score of 80 percent or better for successful completion.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor May 27, 2009.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 27, 2009.