

SB 79



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

DATE: February 22, 1999

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Senator Kevin Shibilski and Representative Steve Foti

RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB-1443/1 and LRB-2262/1 relating to the regulation of athletic trainers

AB 191

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We are reintroducing legislation to establish professional credentials and standards for athletic trainers. This proposal creates an affiliated credentialing board for athletic trainers to provide for better regulation of this growing profession and to help ensure that athletes of all levels receive high-quality care from qualified and trained health care professionals. This bill restricts the use of the title "athletic trainer," but does NOT require a person to be licensed as an athletic trainer. The bill does not "grandfather" existing athletic trainers.

This legislation was prompted by concern over the care and treatment provided to participants in individual and team sports. Often, there is an injury on the field, and the team "trainer" runs onto the field to provide assistance. As parents of children active in sports, we want to know that the person treating them if an injury occurs is a skilled, licensed professional. This proposal will give athletes, trainers and coaches peace of mind by knowing the athletic trainer treating an injured athlete is qualified to make important decisions in the best interests of the athlete.

Last session, this bill (1997 AB 466) received the support of the Assembly Committee on Consumer Affairs, but the legislative session ended before final floor action could be taken. The bill is supported by the Wisconsin Association of Athletic Trainers, which includes athletic trainers from Wisconsin's Professional Sports Teams (including Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers) and from universities and high schools across the state. Various athletes and coaches from all levels have already expressed their support for this legislation.

The LRB analysis is attached below. If you would like to cosponsor this bill, please contact Senator Shibilski's office at 6-3123 or Representative Foti's office at 6-2401 by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4th, and your name will be added to companion bills.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a six-member athletic trainers affiliated credentialing board (affiliated credentialing board) that is attached to the medical examining board, and establishes requirements for the licensing of athletic trainers by the affiliated credentialing board.

The bill does not require an individual to be licensed as an athletic trainer in order to practice athletic training, but the bill does, with certain exceptions, restrict the use of the titles "athletic trainer", "licensed athletic trainer", "certified athletic trainer" and "registered athletic trainer" to individuals who are licensed as athletic trainers by the

Under the bill, an individual must do all of the following to be licensed as an athletic trainer:

1. Submit evidence satisfactory to the affiliated credentialing board that he or she has received at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Submit evidence satisfactory to the affiliated credentialing board that he or she does not have an arrest or conviction record, or a history of alcohol or other drug abuse, that is substantially related to the practice of athletic training.
3. Provide a statement as to whether he or she has applied for or been granted an athletic trainer credential from any licensing jurisdiction in the United States or in any foreign country and, if so, whether the application was denied or whether he or she was subject to discipline while holding a credential from another licensing jurisdiction.
4. Pass an examination conducted or approved by the affiliated credentialing board.
5. Submit evidence satisfactory to the affiliated credentialing board that he or she has met the certification requirements established by, and has passed the certification examination administered by, the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification.

The bill also provides for two temporary licenses. An individual who satisfies all of the requirements for a license except for passing the examination is eligible for a nonrenewable temporary license that is valid for one year. An individual who satisfies all of the requirements for a license except for passing the examination and meeting the certification requirements is eligible for a temporary license that is valid for two years if he or she has engaged in athletic training during the 12 months prior to the effective date of the bill. This temporary license may be renewed once if the individual has made significant progress toward meeting the certification requirements.

The bill provides for the reciprocal licensure of individuals who have been issued an athletic trainer credential by another licensing jurisdiction in the United States if that jurisdiction has requirements for credentialing that are substantially equivalent to the requirements established under the bill.

The bill also establishes practice requirements for an individual who is licensed as an athletic trainer by the affiliated credentialing board. A licensed athletic trainer must practice athletic training in accordance with an evaluation and treatment protocol established by the athletic trainer and approved by the physician with whom the athletic trainer will consult while practicing athletic training. In addition, a licensed athletic trainer may also do any of the following: 1) monitor the general behavior and general physical response of a person to treatment and rehabilitation; 2) suggest modifications in treatment or rehabilitation to the consulting physician or other health care provider who is providing treatment to an injured person; and 3) develop and administer an athletic training program for a person.

Finally, a licensed athletic trainer must complete continuing education requirements established by the affiliated credentialing board and must have liability insurance or a surety bond in a minimum amount set by the affiliated credentialing board in order to renew his or her athletic trainer license.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.