

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-006

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

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9 WHEREAS, athletic trainers are highly qualified, multiskilled
10 healthcare professionals who graduate from an accredited educational program
11 and pass a comprehensive certification; and

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13 WHEREAS, forty-nine (49) states, as well as Washington D.C., license or
14 regulate the practice of athletic training; and

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16 WHEREAS, there are over four hundred (400) certified athletic trainers
17 in the State of Arkansas; and

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19 WHEREAS, athletic training education has undergone significant changes
20 since the enactment of the Arkansas Athletic Trainers Act, § 17-93-401 et
21 seq., in 1995; and

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

- 25 (1) Injury and illness prevention;
26 (2) Wellness promotion;
27 (3) Examination, assessment, and diagnosis;
28 (4) Immediate and emergency care;
29 (5) Therapeutic intervention; and
30 (6) Healthcare administration and professional responsibility;

31 and

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

1 WHEREAS, other individual states and the United States Government
2 employ athletic trainers in a variety of settings to treat a variety of
3 patients; and
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5 WHEREAS, research demonstrates that access to an athletic trainer saves
6 lives, improves quality of life, decreases missed work days, and decreases
7 healthcare associated costs; and
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9 WHEREAS, there is an immediate need for athletic trainers in the State
10 of Arkansas but it is difficult to recruit to those positions in this state
11 because other states allow a broader scope of practice; and
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13 WHEREAS, to increase patient access to health care, reduce healthcare
14 costs, and promote efficient and timely health care in the State of Arkansas,
15 the General Assembly should modernize the scope of practice laws for athletic
16 trainers to reflect the Role Delineation Study/Practice Analysis issued by
17 the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer and the most recent
18 educational standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training
19 Education,
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21 NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE
23 ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
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25 THAT the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study
26 ways to attract more athletic trainers to the State of Arkansas by updating
27 the Arkansas Athletic Trainers Act, § 17-93-401 et seq., to reflect modern
28 educational standards of the athletic trainer, included without limitation:

- 29 (1) Populations that athletic trainers treat;
- 30 (2) Settings where athletic trainers work and practice;
- 31 (3) How athletic trainers are supervised;
- 32 (4) Modification of temporary licensure for athletic trainers;

33 and

34 (5) Modification of fees and penalties imposed on athletic
35 trainers.
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Respectfully submitted,

Senator Kim Hammer

District 16

Prepared by: JMB/JMB