



The Arkansas Athletic Trainers' Association (AATA) was created in 1987. The purpose of this association was to promote the Athletic Trainer and the practice of Athletic Training. In 1995, the first licensure law was enacted. This law created the Arkansas State Board of Athletic Training (Licensing board). This board regulates Athletic Trainers who practice Athletic Training within our state.

Since 2002, Arkansas AT's have graduated from CAATE (CAAHEP) accredited education programs and possess a current license through our state licensing board. A physician (MD or DO) must sign this license annually (AT's use evidence based research in the treatment of patients).

The Board of Certification[®] has published the Role Delineation Study for the Athletic Trainer; Practice Analysis, 6th edition. This document clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the Athletic Trainer. Our definitions and scope of practice should be in line with this national standard.

The AATA's goal of amending the current Practice Act is one of consumer protection. It is our wish to provide a rigorous penalties policy for our state licensing board. It would also reflect the evolution of our discipline with physician direction. We strive to promote better consumer protection and provide uniformity of practice settings and direction of that care. To better do this we must:

1. Increase the authority of the state licensing board;
2. Delete the definitions of practice settings that restrict access.

Healthcare and its delivery continue to evolve yet our practice act has not been updated since 1995. We first began as a committee under the state physical therapy board. Since then, we have formed our own board. Our relationship with the physical therapy board is positive. In fact, we share full time office staff.

As the president of the AATA, I am asking for your consideration in moving this practice act update forward. Please feel free to contact me for any questions.

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