

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-006

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and

WHEREAS, athletic trainers should practice to the fullest extent of their licensure, accreditation, certification, and education for the health 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