

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995
4 By: Representative Wren

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2062

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETIC TRAINERS
9 COMMITTEE; TO CREDENTIAL AND LICENSE ATHLETIC TRAINERS IN
10 ARKANSAS WHO MEET CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS; TO CREATE A
11 STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE ARKANSAS STATE PHYSICAL THERAPY
12 BOARD TO LICENSE, EXAMINE AND REGULATE ACTIVITIES OF
13 ATHLETIC TRAINERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

16 "TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS STATE
17 ATHLETIC TRAINERS COMMITTEE"

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas
22 Athletic Trainers_ Act".

24 SECTION 2. Definitions. For purposes of this act, unless the context
25 otherwise requires:

26 (a) "Athlete" means an individual who is participating in organized
27 athletic or team activities at the interscholastic, intramural,
28 intercollegiate, or professional level or sanctioned athletic events.

29 (b) "Athletic injury or illness" means an injury or illness sustained
30 by the athlete as a result of participation in those organized athletic or
31 team activities which require physical strength, agility, flexibility, range
32 of motion, speed or stamina, or any comparable injury or illness to an
33 athlete which prevents such person from participating in activities described
34 in subsection (a) of this section.

35 (c) "Athletic training" means the prevention, recognition, evaluation,

1 treatment, and rehabilitation of an athletic injury or illness; and the
2 organization and administration of exercise, conditioning, and athletic
3 training programs.

4 (d) "Athletic Trainer" means a person licensed by the state to engage
5 in athletic training.

6 (e) "Board" means the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy.

7 (f) "Committee" means the Arkansas State Athletic Trainers Committee
8 of the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy.

9 (g) "License" means the document issued by the board upon the
10 recommendation of the committee to a qualified person to practice athletic
11 training. A license issued under this act expires one (1) year after the
12 date of issuance. Licenses shall be renewed according to procedures
13 established by the committee and approved by the board.

14

15 SECTION 3. Penalties. Any person who violates a provision of this act
16 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred
17 dollars (\$100.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or by
18 imprisonment for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than one hundred
19 eighty (180) days, or both.

20

21 SECTION 4. Creation - Committee

22 (a) There is created the Arkansas State Athletic Trainers Committee of
23 the Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy. The committee shall be
24 composed of three (3) licensed athletic trainers, and one (1) consumer who is
25 not actively engaged in or retired from the practice of athletic training,
26 medicine, physical therapy, or employment by an athletic department of an
27 accredited educational institution. In making appointments to the committee,
28 the Governor shall give consideration to recommendations made by professional
29 organizations of athletic trainers. Each athletic trainer initially
30 appointed must be practicing in Arkansas and must have passed a reliable,
31 valid, and legally defensible examination approved by the board for
32 determining minimum competency in athletic training. To qualify as a member
33 of the committee, a person must be a resident of the state of Arkansas for
34 five (5) years immediately preceding appointment.

35 (b) The members of the committee shall be appointed for terms of three

1 (3) years except that in making the initial appointments, the Governor shall
2 designate one (1) athletic trainer member to serve one (1) year, and one (1)
3 athletic trainer member to serve two (2) years, and one athletic trainer
4 member to serve three (3) years; other members shall be appointed to serve
5 three (3) years. In the event of death, resignation, or removal of any
6 member, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in
7 the same manner as the original appointment. The Governor may remove any
8 member for cause prior to the expiration of the member_s term.

9 (c) The committee shall elect officers as it considers necessary to
10 carry out its duties. The committee shall meet at least two (2) times each
11 year. Additional meetings may be held on the call of the chairperson or a
12 written request of any three (3) members of the committee. The quorum
13 required for any meeting of the committee is three (3) members.

14 (d) The committee shall cease to exist on July 1, 2001, and its duties
15 and functions shall thereafter be performed by the board.

16

17 SECTION 5. Powers and duties of the committee. The committee shall
18 have the following duties:

19 (a) To submit to the board for its adoption rules and regulations
20 consistent with this act which are necessary for the performance of its
21 duties, including, but not limited to, the imposing of fees adequate to carry
22 out the purposes of this act;

23 (b) To propose to the board for its adoption minimum curriculum and
24 internship requirements for qualification for an Arkansas athletic trainer_s
25 license;

26 (c) To designate or administer an examination that has been shown to
27 be a reliable and valid test of minimum competency in athletic training to be
28 taken by all persons applying for licensure and file examination results with
29 the board;

30 (d) To prescribe application forms for license applicants;

31 (e) To keep records of all proceedings of the committee under this act
32 and to subsequently file the records with the board;

33 (f) To promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the issuance of
34 temporary permits;

35 (g) To promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the

1 implementation of a continuing education program; and

2 (h) To propose to the board for its adoption rules and regulations
3 governing admission by reciprocity.

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5 SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize the
6 dispensing of prescription drugs or the practice of medicine or physical
7 therapy by any person not so licensed in this state.

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9 SECTION 7. Powers and duties of the board. The board shall have the
10 following powers and duties:

11 (a) To receive and maintain all records of committee proceedings;

12 (b) To ensure that actions of the committee are in compliance with
13 this act;

14 (c) To issue licenses upon recommendation of the committee;

15 (d) To keep a complete record of all licensed athletic trainers and to
16 prepare annually a roster showing the names and addresses of all licensed
17 athletic trainers, and to make available a copy of such roster to any person
18 requesting it on payment of a fee as established by the board to cover cost
19 of the roster;

20 (e) To promulgate rules and regulations for implementing this act upon
21 recommendation of the committee;

22 (f) To collect fees as determined by the committee and the board
23 adequate to carry out the purposes of this act;

24 (g) To keep records of fees collected and costs incurred for
25 operations of the committee and licensing of athletic trainers;

26 (h) To file an annual report of its activities, including the
27 activities of the committee, with the Arkansas Department of Finance and
28 Administration.

29

30 SECTION 8. License Required - Exceptions.

31 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to use the title of "Athletic
32 Trainer", "Licensed Athletic Trainer", "Registered Athletic Trainer",
33 "L.A.T.", "A.T.C.", "R.A.T.", or any symbols denoting the license of athletic
34 training or perform any of the activities of an athletic trainer as defined
35 by this act without first obtaining all licenses required under this act,

1 unless provided otherwise, herein.

2 (b) Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize the practice
3 of medicine or physical therapy by any person not so licensed by the state.

4 (c) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the lawful
5 practice of a licensed health care professional under the scope of their
6 license.

7 (d) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the lawful
8 practice of a licensed athletic trainer from another state who accompanies
9 his or her team, athlete, or representatives to the state of Arkansas for
10 limited competition.

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12 SECTION 9. In a non-clinical setting, an athletic trainer may provide
13 treatment to the athlete under a physical therapist licensed in the state of
14 Arkansas. The athletic trainer may provide treatment to the athlete in a
15 hospital or out-patient clinic under the direct on-site supervision of a
16 physical therapist licensed in this state and upon the referral of a licensed
17 physician. The athletic trainer in a hospital or out-patient clinic may not
18 independently initiate, modify, or discharge an athlete's plan of care.

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20 SECTION 10. A license issued under this act expires one (1) year after
21 the date of issuance. Licenses shall be renewed according to procedures
22 established by the committee and approved by the board.

23

24 SECTION 11. Unlawful practice - Injunction.

25 The chancery courts of this state are vested with jurisdiction and
26 power to enjoin violations of this act in the county in which the alleged
27 unlawful practice occurred or in which the defendant resides. The issuance
28 of an injunction shall not relieve a person from criminal prosecution for
29 violation of this act, but the remedy of injunction shall be in addition to
30 liability for criminal prosecution.

31

32 SECTION 12. Qualification - Athletic Trainer.

33 (a) (1) The board on recommendation of the committee shall register as
34 an athletic trainer any applicant who is actively engaged as an athletic
35 trainer on the effective date of this act if the applicant submits an

1 application, pays all required fees, submits proof of passing a nationally
2 recognized test of minimal competency in athletic training or as otherwise
3 provided in rules and regulations of the board.

4 (2) For the purpose of this act, a person is actively engaged as
5 an athletic trainer if the person has performed such duties as a principal
6 part of his full time employment under the direction of a licensed physician
7 for three (3) of the past five (5) years preceding the application.

8 (3) Notarized proof of employment, performance of duties, and
9 supervision shall accompany the person_s application.

10 (4) Application for license under Section 10(a) must be made
11 within ninety (90) days after the effective date of this act.

12 (b) Except as provided in (a) an applicant for an Arkansas athletic
13 trainer_s license must:

14 (1) possess a Bachelor_s Degree from an accredited college or
15 university;

16 (2) meet other curriculum and internship requirements as
17 specified by the board upon recommendation of the committee;

18 (3) pass an examination for licensure as designated by the board
19 on recommendation of the committee which is a reliable, valid, legally
20 defensible examination for determining minimum competency in athletic
21 training;

22 (4) submit appropriate application forms to the board for
23 committee approval; and

24 (5) pay all appropriate fees.

25

26 SECTION 13. Revocation, suspension, or denial - Grounds.

27 (a) The board on recommendation of the committee may refuse to issue
28 or renew a license or suspend or revoke a license if an applicant has:

29 (1) been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral
30 turpitude, the record of conviction being conclusive evidence of conviction
31 if the board determines after investigation, that such person has not been
32 sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust; or

33 (2) secured a license under this act by fraud or deceit; or

34 (3) violated or conspired to violate this act or rules or
35 regulations issued pursuant to this act.

1 (b) On application, the board may reissue a license to a person whose
2 license has been revoked, but the application may not be made prior to the
3 expiration of a period of one (1) year after the order of revocation has
4 become final. Such application shall be made in the manner and form required
5 by the board.

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7 SECTION 14. Revocation, suspension, or denial - Proceedings.

8 (a) Any person whose application for a license or for renewal of a
9 license is denied is entitled to a hearing, which shall be conducted pursuant
10 to the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, Arkansas Code 25-15-201, et
11 seq.

12 (b) Proceedings for revocation or suspension of a license shall be
13 commenced by filing charges with the board in writing. The charge may be
14 brought by any person.

15 (c) The board shall fix the time and place of the hearing and shall
16 provide a written copy of the charges or reason for the denial of the license
17 or for the refusal to renew the license, together with a notice of the time
18 and place fixed for the hearing, to be served on the applicant requesting the
19 hearing or license against whom the charges have been filed at least thirty
20 (30) days prior to the date set for the hearing.

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22 SECTION 15. Reciprocity.

23 (a) A licensed Athletic Trainer who has been issued a license to
24 practice as an Athletic Trainer in another state or territory whose
25 requirements for registration and licensure were equal, at the time of
26 registration or licensure, to the requirements contained in this act may be
27 registered and issued a license by the board, provided the other state or
28 territory accords a similar privilege of registration and licensure to
29 persons registered and licensed in the state of Arkansas by the board.

30 (b) The issuance of a license by reciprocity shall be at the sole
31 discretion of the board,

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33 SECTION 16. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent
34 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas
35 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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2 SECTION 17. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
3 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
4 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
5 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
6 act are declared to be severable.

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8 SECTION 18. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
9 hereby repealed.