

Oppose Athletic Trainers Act—Revised

Alters the definition of "practice athletic training"; alters the composition of the Athletic Trainer Advisory Committee; specifies that certain members of the Committee may be appointed from a certain list of individuals submitted to the State Board of Physicians by a certain successor organization; requires a licensed athletic trainer to practice athletic training in accordance with standards of practice established by certain organizations. This bill would allow athletic trainers to evaluate and treat injury or illness in any setting, to any population, regardless of age or health status. It would also allow standards of practice for athletic trainers to be determined by the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

SB 151 – Sponsor: Senator Bates, Committee: EHEA

HB497 – Sponsor: Delegate Wilson, Committee: HGO

Talking Points/Concerns

Athletic training currently focuses on prevention, clinical evaluation and assessment, as well as treatment, rehabilitation and reconditioning of injuries to athletes. Under existing Maryland law, "athletic training" means the application of specified principles and methods for managing athletic injuries for athletes in **good overall health** under the supervision of a physician, in specified settings.

SB 151 would expand the scope of practice of athletic training to include the recognition and evaluation of injury and *illness*; managing and administering initial treatment of injury and *illness*; emergency care for *illness* as well as injury.

SB 151 promotes the delivery of health care by athletic trainers to anyone - regardless of age, disabilities, or physical or mental health conditions, in ANY setting. Under this bill athletic trainers will be treating pediatric, geriatric and medically compromised patients in any setting not only for injuries, but for *illness* as well. An athletic trainer, under SB 151, will be authorized to do initial recognition and evaluation of not only injury, but illness - including infectious diseases. EXAMPLE: This bill would allow an athletic trainer to treat an individual for the flu in the hospital.

An athletic trainer will be empowered to determine if an individual's overall health has changed, and take "reasonable action" to inform the supervising physician of the change. HOWEVER, the supervising physician may not be, and often won't be, the patient's primary care doctor. Because the information may not be referred back to the primary care physician, the patient may be delayed in receiving the care they need.

SB 151 would allow athletic training standards of practice to be determined by the National Athletic Trainers Association or "any other national certifying organization" approved by the board.

SB 151 can affect continuum of care and access to physical therapy. As there is a limitation on covered therapy visits under many insurance policies, we are concerned that if a patient goes to an inadequately trained provider to treat their condition(s), then they may not have enough covered visits left to adequately treat the condition.



SUPPORT

TALKING POINTS

Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness)

Requiring a public school student in elementary school to be provided a daily program of physical activity totaling 150 minutes each week to include physical education and developmentally appropriate, moderate-to-vigorous activity, including recess; requiring that the program of physical activity for a certain category of student be consistent with the student's Individualized Education Plan; requiring public elementary schools, etc.

HB 393 – Sponsor: Delegate Walker, Committee: Ways and Means

HB 393 would require public school students in elementary school be provide a daily program of physical activity totally 150 minutes each week, 90 minutes of which would be physical education each week. Any minutes not consisting of physical education would consist of developmentally appropriate, moderate-to-vigorous activity, including recess.

Under HB 393, each public elementary school would designate a Physical Activity Leadership Team to plan and coordinate opportunities for activities that would be developmentally appropriate and of moderate-to-vigorous intensity.

Inadequate participation in physical activity is a significant contributor to the obesity epidemic that impacts not only adults, but children as well. Increasing physical activity at a young age can lead to improved overall health of an individual.

OPPOSE

Protective Headgear Requirement for Motorcycle Riders – Exception

Providing that the prohibition against operating or riding on a motorcycle without certain protective headgear does not apply to an individual at least 21 years old who has been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least 2 years, has completed a certain motorcycle safety course, or is a passenger on a motorcycle operated by a driver who has been licensed for at least 2 years or has completed a certain motorcycle safety course; etc.

SB 439 – Sponsor: Senator Norma, Committee: Judicial Proceedings

SB 439 would exempt motorcyclists who are 21 years of age, who have completed a motorcycle safety course and who have been licensed for at least 2 years to drive a motorcycle to be exempt from the requirement to wear protective headgear when operating or riding a motorcycle.

Helmets provide invaluable protection to one of the most essential structures in the human body, the brain. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that “helmets saved 1,630 motorcyclists’ lives in 2013 and that 715 more could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets.” If death does not occur immediately following a motorcycle crash, rehabilitation for orthopedic and neurological trauma (including head injury) can potentially last years. The economic costs associated with medical care following these incidents are huge. According to the CDC, approximately \$76.5 billion were used to fund indirect and direct medical costs associated with TBI in 2010.

Mandating the use of helmets when operating or riding a motorcycle for ALL individuals would be a prophylactic measure to reduce the number of preventable motorcycle-related injuries.



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