

House Bill 217

By: Representatives Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Harbin of the 118<sup>th</sup>, Scott of the 153<sup>rd</sup>, Burmeister of the 119<sup>th</sup>, Mosby of the 90<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 athletic trainers, so as to provide that students, teachers, or other persons who serve as  
3 athletic trainers for a public or private elementary school or high school in this state must be  
4 licensed as an athletic trainer; to provide an exception for a student-trainer, assistant-trainer,  
5 or similar person who functions under the advice, consent, and supervision of a physician or  
6 a licensed athletic trainer; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
7 other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 5 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to athletic trainers,  
11 is amended by striking paragraph (2) of Code Section 43-5-1, relating to definitions, and  
12 inserting in lieu thereof a new paragraph (2) to read as follows:

13 "(2) 'Athletic trainer' means a person with specific qualifications, as set forth in ~~Code~~  
14 ~~Section~~ Code Sections 43-5-7 and 43-5-8 who, upon the advice and consent of a  
15 physician, carries out the practice of prevention, recognition, evaluation, management,  
16 disposition, treatment, or rehabilitation of athletic injuries; and, in carrying out these  
17 functions, the athletic trainer is authorized to use physical modalities, such as heat, light,  
18 sound, cold, electricity, or mechanical devices related to prevention, recognition,  
19 evaluation, management, disposition, rehabilitation, and treatment. ~~The term 'athletic~~  
20 ~~trainer' shall not include any student, teacher, or other person who serves as an athletic~~  
21 ~~trainer for an elementary school or high school, either public or private, within this state~~  
22 Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require licensure of elementary or  
23 secondary school teachers, coaches, or authorized volunteers who do not hold themselves  
24 out to the public as athletic trainers, provided that such service is carried out upon the  
25 advice and consent of a physician. Any school or school system hiring an individual to  
26 perform the services defined in this Code section must make a reasonable attempt to

1 notify the parents or guardians of the participating students of the qualifications of the  
2 individual performing these services."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 43-5-7, relating to license  
5 requirements for persons engaged as athletic trainers, and inserting in lieu thereof a new  
6 Code Section 43-5-7 to read as follows:

7 "43-5-7.

8 No person shall hold himself or herself out as an athletic trainer or perform, ~~for~~  
9 ~~compensation, any of the activities~~ the services of an athletic trainer, as defined in this  
10 chapter, without first obtaining a license under this chapter; provided, however, that  
11 nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent any person from serving as a  
12 student-trainer, assistant-trainer, or any similar position if such service is not primarily for  
13 compensation and is carried out under the supervision of a physician or a licensed athletic  
14 trainer."

15 **SECTION 3.**

16 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.