

House Bill 314

By: Representatives LaHood of the 175<sup>th</sup>, Powell of the 33<sup>rd</sup>, Jasperse of the 11<sup>th</sup>, Cannon of the 172<sup>nd</sup>, and Sharper of the 177<sup>th</sup>

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 revise and update definitions; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to  
3 require athletic training students to be under the direct supervision of a physician or licensed  
4 athletic trainer; to revise and update certification requirements; to provide for related matters;  
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 5 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to athletic trainers,  
9 is amended by revising Code Section 43-5-1, relating to definitions, as follows:

10 "43-5-1.

11 As used in this chapter, the term:

12 (1) 'Athletic injury' means any injury condition sustained by a person as a result of such  
13 person's participation in ~~exercises, sports, games, or recreational activities, or any~~  
14 activities requiring physical strength, agility, flexibility, range of motion, speed, or  
15 stamina without respect to where or how the injury condition occurs. Nothing in this  
16 paragraph shall be construed to expand the scope of practice of an athletic trainer beyond

17 the determination of the advising and consenting physician as provided for in  
18 paragraph (2) of this Code section.

19 (2) 'Athletic trainer' means a person with specific qualifications, as set forth in Code  
20 Sections 43-5-7 and 43-5-8 who, upon the advice and consent of a physician, carries out  
21 the practice of prevention, recognition, evaluation, management, disposition, treatment,  
22 or rehabilitation of athletic injuries; and, in carrying out these functions, the athletic  
23 trainer is authorized to use physical modalities, such as heat, light, sound, cold,  
24 electricity, or mechanical devices related to prevention, recognition, evaluation,  
25 management, disposition, rehabilitation, and treatment. ~~Nothing in this Code section~~  
26 ~~shall be construed to require licensure of elementary or secondary school teachers,~~  
27 ~~coaches, or authorized volunteers who do not hold themselves out to the public as athletic~~  
28 ~~trainers.~~ Athletic trainers who perform dry needling procedures are required to  
29 demonstrate proof of graduation from a program of study that included dry needling  
30 instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours and a competency assessment of  
31 achievement in its curriculum. Online study for dry needling instruction will not be  
32 accepted as a demonstration of competence and training.

33 (3) 'Board' means the Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers."

## 34 SECTION 2.

35 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-5-6, relating to general powers  
36 and duties of the Georgia Board for Athletic Trainers, as follows:

37 "43-5-6.

38 (a) The board is authorized to promulgate and adopt rules and regulations consistent with  
39 this chapter which are necessary for the performance of its duties.

40 (b) The board shall prescribe application forms for license applications.

41 (c) The board shall establish guidelines for athletic trainers in the state and ~~prepare and~~  
42 ~~conduct an~~ approve a certification examination for applicants for a license.

43 (d) The board shall adopt an official seal and the form of a license certificate of suitable  
44 design."

45 **SECTION 3.**

46 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-5-7, relating to license  
47 requirement for persons engaged as athletic trainers, as follows:

48 "43-5-7.

49 No person shall hold himself or herself out as an athletic trainer or perform the services of  
50 an athletic trainer, as defined in this chapter, without first obtaining a license under this  
51 chapter. ~~Nothing, provided, however, that nothing~~ in this chapter shall be construed to  
52 prevent any person enrolled in an accredited athletic training educational program  
53 recognized by the board from serving as ~~a student-trainer, assistant-trainer, or any similar~~  
54 position an athletic training student if such service is ~~not primarily for compensation~~  
55 following the accredited program's standards for clinical education and is carried out under  
56 the direct supervision of a physician or a licensed athletic trainer. As used in this Code  
57 section, the term 'direct supervision' means that the supervising athletic trainer or physician  
58 is physically present in the facility where athletic training students assisting with athletic  
59 training services are located and is immediately available to assist the person being  
60 supervised."

61 **SECTION 4.**

62 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-5-8, relating to qualifications  
63 of applicants and reciprocity, as follows:

64 "43-5-8.

65 (a) An applicant for an athletic trainer's license ~~must have met the athletic training~~  
66 ~~curriculum requirements of a college or university approved~~ shall be a graduate of an  
67 accredited educational program that prepares athletic trainers recognized by the board and

68 ~~give proof of graduation or shall submit, in a manner prescribed by the board, equivalent~~  
69 ~~educational credentials as approved by the board.~~

70 (b) The board shall be authorized to grant a license, without examination, to any qualified  
71 athletic trainer holding a license in another state if such other state recognizes licensees of  
72 this state in the same manner.

73 (c) The board may grant a license without examination to any qualified applicant who  
74 holds a certification from the ~~National Athletic Trainers Board of Certification~~ Board of  
75 Certification for the Athletic Trainer or its successor.

76 ~~(d) Any person who was issued a license prior to July 1, 2004, shall remain qualified for~~  
77 ~~licensure, notwithstanding the requirement for proof of graduation in subsection (a) of this~~  
78 ~~Code section, so long as the license remains current."~~

79 **SECTION 5.**

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