

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 175

As Amended by Senate Committee on Public
Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 175, as amended, would amend the Athletic Trainers Licensure Act to amend the definition of “athletic training,” provide a licensure exemption, make changes to the application for licensure as an athletic trainer, and make technical amendments.

Definition

The bill would amend the term “athletic training” to mean:

- The practice of injury prevention, physical evaluation, emergency care and referral or physical reconditioning relating to athletic activity including but not limited to sports participation, exercise, fitness training, strength and conditioning work, recreational physical activities, and competitive athletics. This encompasses wellness promotion, risk management, immediate or emergency care, examination, assessment and therapeutic intervention, or rehabilitation of athletic injury and illness; and
- Making clinical decisions to determine if consultation or referrals are necessary, health care administration, professional responsibility, performance of athletic training research and

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

educating and consulting with the public regarding safe participation in athletic activities and proper training methods.

Kansas Licensure Waiver Exemption for Athletic Trainers

The bill would provide an exemption to the Kansas Athletic Trainers Licensure Act for individuals who are accompanying an athletic team or organization from another state or jurisdiction and provide the services of an athletic trainer in Kansas and that meet the following criteria:

- Licensed and able to practice as an athletic trainer in another state, District of Columbia, territory, or foreign country; and
- Provide the services of an athletic trainer only to the members of the athletic team or organization that traveled to Kansas.

Changes to Athletic Trainer License Application Requirements

The bill would eliminate the requirement that an application for licensure as an athletic trainer be made in writing.

The bill would also require an applicant for licensure as an athletic trainer to provide proof of graduation after successful completion of the curriculum requirements of an accredited training education program at an accredited college or university approved by the State Board of Healing Arts. [Note: Current law requires proof of receipt of a baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree with a major course of study in an athletic training curriculum.]

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare at the request of a representative of the Kansas Athletic Trainer Society.

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Athletic Trainers Society who generally stated the bill reflects changes in the athletic training education preparation and a modernization of the profession of athletic training, which would allow athletic trainers to practice to the full extent of their education and increase employment opportunities.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas School Nurses Organization.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the American Physical Therapy Association–Kansas Chapter (APTA Kansas) who generally stated concerns about the expansion of the athletic trainers scope of practice relating to removal of the phrase “relating to athletic activity.”

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by another representative of APTA Kansas.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Chiropractic Association who expressed concerns regarding the meaning of the terms in the bill as well as the need for a practice protocol.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill by amending the definition of “athletic training.”

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, as introduced, the State Board of Healing Arts states enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Health; athletic trainer; licensure; Athletic Trainers Licensure Act