

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senator  
Haridopolos

581-03494-09

20092066c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to certification of public school  
3           athletic coaches; amending s. 1012.55, F.S.; providing  
4           that completion of a sports safety course shall meet  
5           certain certification requirements; requiring the  
6           sports safety course to be approved by the Florida  
7           High School Athletic Association Board of Directors  
8           and to meet specified requirements; providing an  
9           effective date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13           Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 1012.55, Florida  
14 Statutes, is amended to read:

15           1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.—

16           (2) (a) Each person who is employed and renders service as  
17 an athletic coach in any public school in any district of this  
18 state shall hold a valid temporary or professional certificate  
19 or an athletic coaching certificate. The athletic coaching  
20 certificate may be used for either part-time or full-time  
21 positions. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to any  
22 athletic coach who voluntarily renders service and who is not  
23 employed by any public school district of this state.

24           (b) Completion of a sports safety course shall count for 6  
25 hours of required district in-service instruction for athletic  
26 coaching certification if the course is approved by the Florida  
27 High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and meets  
28 the following requirements:

29           1. The course consists of at least eight modules.

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30           2. The course immediately provides an individual with a  
31 "merit" certificate at the time of successful completion.

32           3. The course is delivered through hands-on and online  
33 teaching methods.

34           4. A hands-on course is taught by a health care  
35 professional who is a member of the National Athletic Trainers'  
36 Association or a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic  
37 Surgeons.

38           5. Hands-on course material is less than 120 pages.

39           6. The course covers sports safety specifically, excluding  
40 coaching principles and procedures for cardiopulmonary  
41 resuscitation.

42           7. The course is authored or approved by at least 10 health  
43 care professionals, including doctors of medicine, doctors of  
44 osteopathy, registered nurses, physical therapists, and  
45 certified athletic trainers.

46           8. The course is revised and reviewed for updates at least  
47 once every 30 months.

48           9. The course is available to the general public for a  
49 retail price under \$50.

50           10. Each course examination is automated and taken online  
51 with a score of 80 percent or better for successful completion.

52           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.