

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Appropriations

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BILL: CS/SB 226

INTRODUCER: Health Policy Committee and Senator Harrell

SUBJECT: Athletic Trainers

DATE: January 22, 2020

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rossitto-Van Winkle	Brown	HP	<b>Fav/CS</b>
2.	Howard	Kynoch	AP	<b>Favorable</b>
3.			RC	

**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 226 requires an athletic trainer to work within his or her scope of practice as defined by the Board of Athletic Trainers (BOAT) and revises the educational and internship requirements for licensure.

The bill has an insignificant, nonrecurring, fiscal impact on the Department of Health (department) that can be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2020.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Athletic Trainers**

Section 468.703, F.S., establishes the BOAT within the department to license and regulate the practice of athletic trainers in Florida. Applicants for licensure as an athletic trainer are required to:<sup>1</sup>

- Submit to a background screening;
- Have a baccalaureate or higher degree from a college or university in professional athletic training accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, and

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<sup>1</sup> Section 468.707, F.S.

have passed the national examination to be certified by the Board of Certification (BOC)<sup>2</sup> for athletic trainers;

- Have a current certification from the BOC, if they graduated before 2004;<sup>3</sup> and
- Have current certifications in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).

An athletic trainer must practice under the direction of an allopathic, osteopathic or chiropractic physician licensed under chs. 458, 459, or 460, F.S., or otherwise authorized by Florida law. The physician must communicate his or her direction through oral or written prescriptions or protocols for the provision of services and care by the athletic trainer, and the athletic trainer must provide service or care as dictated by the physician.<sup>4</sup>

The services of an athletic trainer must relate to the prevention, recognition, evaluation, management, disposition, treatment, or rehabilitation of a physically active person who sustained an injury, illness, or other condition involving exercise, sport, recreation, or related physical activity. In providing care and services, an athletic trainer may use physical modalities, including, but not limited to, heat, light, sound, cold, electricity, and mechanical devices.<sup>5</sup>

The BOAT is authorized to adopt rules to implement the provisions of part XIII, ch. 468, F.S. Such rules must include, but are not limited to:<sup>6</sup>

- The allowable scope of practice regarding the use of equipment, procedures, and medication;
- Mandatory requirements and guidelines for communication between the athletic trainer and a physician, including the reporting to the physician of new or recurring injuries or conditions;
- Licensure requirements;
- Licensure examination;
- Continuing education requirements;
- Fees;
- Records and reports to be filed by licensees;
- Protocols; and,
- Any other requirements necessary to regulate the practice of athletic training.

At renewal, licensed athletic trainers must demonstrate a current BOC certification; however, there is no requirement for that certification to be held without lapse and in good standing.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) was incorporated in 1989 as a not-for-profit credentialing agency to provide a certification program for the entry level athletic training profession. The BOC establishes both the standards for the practice of athletic training and the continuing education requirements for BOC Certified Athletic Trainers (ATs). The BOC also works with state regulatory agencies to provide credential information, professional conduct guidelines and regulatory standards on certification issues. The BOC also has the only accredited certification program for ATs in the United States and has mutual recognition agreements with Canada and Ireland. See Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer, *What is the BOC?* available at: <http://www.bocatc.org/about-us#what-is-the-boc> (last visited Oct. 4, 2019).

<sup>3</sup> *Supra* note 1, at 4. Prior to 2004, and the inception of athletic training programs, athletic trainers obtained training through a BOC internship program to obtain licensure in Florida. Current law does not automatically allow athletic trainers who obtained training through the BOC internship program to become licensed in Florida.

<sup>4</sup> Section 468.713, F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Section 468.701, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 468.705, F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 468.711, F.S.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill amends s. 468.701, F.S., to remove a substantive statutory provision from the definition of “athletic trainer” and relocate that provision to s. 468.713, F.S. The provision in question restricts a licensed athletic trainer from providing, offering to provide, or representing that he or she is qualified to provide any care or services that he or she lacks the education, training, or experience to provide, or that he or she is otherwise prohibited by law from providing.

The bill also specifies within s. 468.713, F.S., that an athletic trainer shall work within his or her allowable scope of practice as specified in BOAT rule under s. 468.705, F.S.

The bill amends the licensure requirements for an athletic trainer in s. 468.707, F.S., to create a new licensure pathway for applicants who hold a bachelor’s degree, have completed the BOC internship requirements, and hold a current certification from the BOC to become licensed in Florida.

The bill amends s. 468.711, F.S., relating to licensure renewal requirements to require an athletic trainer to maintain his or her BOC certification in good standing without lapse. A licensee will have to demonstrate the continuous good-standing of his or her BOC certification at the time of renewal.

The bill amends s. 468.723, F.S., to give the BOAT rulemaking authority to further define the supervision between an athletic training student and a licensed athletic trainer, rather than relying on compliance with standards set by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2020.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

CS/SB 226 has an insignificant negative impact on state revenues and expenditures. The department will experience an insignificant increase in workload associated with rulemaking activities required in the bill. These costs can be absorbed within existing resources of the department.<sup>8</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 468.701, 468.707, 468.711, 468.713, and 468.723.

**IX. Additional Information:**

- A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Health Policy on October 22, 2019:**

The CS:

- Amends s. 468.701, F.S., to remove a substantive statutory provision from the definition of “athletic trainer” and relocate that provision to s. 468.713, F.S.;
- Specifies within s. 468.713, F.S., that an athletic trainer must work within his or her allowable scope of practice as specified in BOAT rule under s. 468.705, F.S.; and

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<sup>8</sup> Department of Health fiscal analysis (on file with the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services).

- Deletes provisions in the underlying bill relating to a person's ability to administer emergency care to another person and the ability of third-party payers to reimburse athletic trainers for covered services.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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