



Memo on Athletic Trainers Legislation in California

Summary: CA AB 796 – The Athletic Training Practice Act

[Assembly Bill 796](#) seeks to regulate athletic trainers by enacting the Athletic Training Practice Act. This bill will establish the Athletic Trainer Registration Committee within the Medical Board of California, as well as prohibit a person from practicing as an athletic trainer without proper registration by the committee. The Committee would only be active until January 1, 2028. If the bill passes, Athletic Trainers in California will now need to register every two years in order to remain certified by the California Medical Board. However, the bill will not require athletic trainers to be licensed. As of 06/01/23 A.B. 796 is on the Senate, read first time to Committee on Rules for assignment.

Background

The bill was proposed because of the reported lack of regulation for athletic trainers in California. The idea is that athletic trainers need to be ready to respond in case of emergencies “or to spot when a player is showing signs of distress.” Requiring registration with the Committee will also make sure that anyone who is an athletic trainer is certified nationwide. Assemblymember Akilah Weber, who introduced the bill, said that “the practice of employing untrained and unqualified athletic trainers puts our student athletes at risk” and believes that this bill is necessary for the safety of California athletes.

Opposition to the Athletic Training Practice Act

Those opposing A.B. 796 see it as too broad and unnecessary. The argument is that there is “no athletic training crisis in California that needs addressing” and that the wording of the bill is too broad allowing anyone that registers to be able to work with any patient, not just for athletic training purposes.

Support of the Act

Assemblymember Weber stated that athletic training is an important job but that it needs to be regulated “because athletic trainers have no regulation now in California and therefore can essentially do whatever they want, without supervision.” A.B. 796 attempts to address the problem of overly restrictive occupational licenses by including a “sunset” provision that allows the Committee to be assessed at a future date, to measure its effectiveness and necessity.

Conclusion

Assembly Bill 796 is attempting to provide regulations for athletic trainers in order to protect athletes. The goal is to regulate athletic training in order to make sure that those who call themselves athletic trainers are qualified to do so. Assemblymember Weber is open to listening to the opposition to her bill and improving the bill as needed. Those who oppose the bill say that



in California there is no need to regulate athletic trainers, and that the bill does not seem to be protecting the public the way that it intends to due to the broad wording. At the moment, there seems to be no other legislation in the state of California regarding athletic training.