

ASSEMBLY, No. 1446

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman ERIK K. SIMONSEN

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Katz and Assemblyman Abdelaziz

SYNOPSIS

Revises “Athletic Training Licensure Act.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Regulated Professions Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/10/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning athletic training, revisi
2 sing various parts of the statutory law and repealing section 7 of
3 P.L.1984, c.203.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.36) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. As used in this act:

11 a. "Advisory committee" means the Athletic Training Advisory
12 Committee established in section 5 of P.L.1984, c.203
13 (C.45:9-37.39);

14 b. **["Athlete"** means an individual who participates in strenuous
15 physical exercise, physical conditioning, or a sport;**"]** (Deleted by
16 amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)

17 c. "Athletic trainer" means a person who practices athletic
18 training;

19 d. "Athletic training" means and includes **["the practice of**
20 **physical conditioning and reconditioning of athletes and the**
21 **prevention of injuries incurred by athletes"]** but is not limited to: the
22 treatment of an individual for injury prevention and health
23 management; the athletic training evaluation and assessment of an
24 individual for an injury or illness, or both; and the rehabilitation and
25 reconditioning of an individual's injury or illness, or both, as
26 recommended by the advisory committee and defined in regulations
27 by the board. Athletic training shall also include the application of
28 physical treatment modalities to **["athletes"]** individuals under a plan
29 of care designed and overseen by a physician licensed in this State,
30 as recommended by the advisory committee and defined in
31 regulations by the board;

32 e. "Board" means the State Board of Medical Examiners;

33 f. "Supervision" means that a physician licensed in this State is
34 accessible to an athletic trainer, either on-site **["or through"],** by voice,
35 or electronic communication, during athletic training;

36 g. "BOC" means the Board of Certification, Inc.; and

37 h. "CAATE" means the Commission on Accreditation of
38 Athletic Training Education.

39 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.1)
40

41 2. Section 3 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.37) is amended to
42 read as follows:

43 3. a. No person shall practice or hold himself out as being able
44 to practice athletic training in this State unless licensed in accordance
45 with the provisions of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.).

46 b. **["A licensed athletic trainer may provide athletic training only:**

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (1) (a) to athletes engaged in interscholastic, intercollegiate, or
2 intramural athletic activities which are being conducted by an
3 educational institution licensed in this State; or (b) to professional
4 athletes; or

5 (2) to athletes in any setting when the athletic trainer is under the
6 supervision of a physician licensed in this State】 Nothing in
7 P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) shall be construed to authorize
8 the interpretation of data for the purpose of diagnosing disease,
9 organic condition or the practice of medicine and surgery,
10 chiropractic, podiatry, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or
11 prosthetics by a person who is not licensed to practice as such
12 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

13 c. An athletic trainer shall immediately refer an 【athlete】
14 individual to an appropriate health care professional licensed in this
15 State if the athletic trainer has reasonable cause to believe that
16 athletic training is contraindicated or symptoms or conditions are
17 present that require services outside the scope of an athletic trainer's
18 practice.

19 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.2)

20
21 3. Section 6 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.40) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 6. a. Beginning on the effective date of P.L.2001, c.156, it shall
24 be unlawful for any person, other than an athletic trainer licensed
25 pursuant to P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) to practice athletic
26 training in this State unless licensed in accordance with the
27 provisions of this act. Nothing in this act, however, shall prohibit any
28 person licensed to practice in this State under any other law from
29 engaging in the practice for which he is licensed.

30 b. This act shall not prohibit: a candidate for licensure as an
31 athletic trainer from accumulating the mandated number of hours of
32 supervised clinical experience under the direction of a licensed
33 athletic trainer; a student enrolled in a school or educational program
34 of athletic training approved by the board from performing acts of
35 athletic training incidental to the course of study, if the performance
36 is under the direction of a licensed athletic trainer; a student in any
37 educational program in the healing arts approved or accredited under
38 the laws of this State from carrying out prescribed courses of study;
39 a person employed by any agency, bureau or division of the federal
40 government from discharging his official duties; or a person in
41 connection with employment as an athletic trainer by a nonresident
42 【athlete】 individual, educational institution or recognized athletic
43 organization temporarily visiting in this State, from practicing
44 athletic training for a period not to exceed 90 days in one calendar
45 year provided he is lawfully permitted to work as an athletic trainer
46 in the state of residence of his employer.

1 c. The provisions of this act are not intended to limit the
2 activities of persons legitimately engaged in the administration of
3 nontherapeutic baths, massage and normal exercise.
4 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.4)

5
6 4. Section 10 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.44) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 10. a. On payment to the board of the application fee as provided
9 in section 14 of [this act] P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48), and upon
10 approval of the application, the board shall issue a license to any
11 person who successfully passes the examination provided in section
12 9 of [this act] P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.43).

13 b. The licensee shall display, or carry on the licensee's person if
14 displaying is not possible, a practicing license at any place the
15 licensee renders services.

16 c. Any license displayed pursuant to subsection b. of this section
17 may be displayed in a manner which prevents the public display of
18 the licensee's home address, provided that the license is not
19 permanently defaced or altered, and the license and all the
20 information contained thereon, including the address of record, can
21 be presented upon the request of a person conducting an
22 investigation.

23 (cf: P.L.2001, c.156, s.7)

24
25 5. Section 8 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.42) is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 8. An applicant for licensure as an athletic trainer shall submit
28 evidence to the board, in the form the board may prescribe, that the
29 applicant:

30 a. Is 18 years of age or older;

31 b. Is of good moral character and does not engage in the habitual
32 use of alcohol, narcotics or other habit forming drugs;

33 c. Is a graduate of a high school approved by the Department of
34 Education or has obtained equivalent education acceptable to the
35 board; and

36 d. Has met the athletic training curriculum requirements of a
37 college or university approved by the board and provides proof of
38 graduation or has successfully completed a program [of
39 baccalaureate education and] that led to a degree in professional
40 athletic training [and experience approved by the board] from a
41 postsecondary educational institution that meets the academic
42 standards for athletic trainers established by the CAATE or its
43 successor organization and provides proof of its completion. The
44 board, in establishing, altering or amending the standards for
45 approving curricula and courses of study in institutions which [grant
46 baccalaureate degrees] offer degrees in professional athletic training
47 and which are accredited by [a regional accreditation agency

1 recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation or the
2 United States Department of Education **】** the CAATE or its successor
3 organization shall consult with the Department of Education and the
4 advisory committee. The board, in establishing, altering, or amending
5 the standards for approving programs **【**of baccalaureate education
6 and**】** in professional athletic training and experience shall consult
7 with the advisory committee. Both the curriculum and the program
8 shall include courses of study in the biophysical sciences for the use
9 of physical agents and medical-surgical techniques **【**as related to
10 athletics**】**.

11 (cf: P.L.2001, c.156, s.5)

12

13 6. Section 9 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.43) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 9. An applicant who complies with the qualifications for
16 licensure shall successfully complete the examination administered
17 by the **【**National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of
18 Certification, Inc.**】** BOC, or its successor organization, or a
19 substantially equivalent examination approved by the board. The
20 examination shall test the applicant's knowledge of the basic and
21 clinical sciences that are pertinent to athletic training, emergency
22 care of the injured individual and principles of injury evaluation and
23 conditioning, including the use of various physical modalities and
24 exercise techniques. The examination shall be administered within
25 the State no less than once each year at a time and place the board
26 shall designate.

27 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.5)

28

29 7. Section 11 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.45) is amended to
30 read as follows:

31 11. On payment to the board of the application fee as provided in
32 section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48), and upon approval of
33 a written application or application for renewal, as the case may be,
34 on forms provided by the board, the board shall issue, without
35 examination, a license to any person who:

36 a. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2001, c.156).

37 b. Is licensed, certified or registered as an athletic trainer in any
38 other state or territory of the United States or the District of
39 Columbia, if the requirements for licensure, certification or
40 registration were at the time of the applicant's licensure, certification
41 or registration equivalent to or in excess of the requirements of this
42 act at the date of application for the license as shall be determined by
43 the board in consultation with the committee; or

44 c. Is employed in or is a resident of this State and presents
45 evidence of being certified by the **【**National Athletic Trainers'
46 Association Board of Certification, Inc.**】** BOC, or its successor
47 organization, as an athletic trainer; or

1 d. Is licensed as an athletic trainer pursuant to the provisions of
2 P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) and makes a timely
3 application for renewal, as determined by the board, prior to the
4 expiration of his biennial license.

5 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.6)

6
7 8. Section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 14. Each initial application under P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35
10 et seq.) shall be accompanied by a fee as prescribed by the board.
11 Licensure shall expire biennially on January 31 and shall be renewed
12 upon application and payment of a fee as prescribed by the board. If
13 the fee is not paid by that date the license shall automatically expire.
14 A license which has expired may, within three years of its expiration
15 date, be renewed on payment to the board of the prescribed
16 reinstatement fee for each year or part thereof during which the
17 license was ineffective and a restoration fee as prescribed by the
18 board. After the three-year period, the license may be renewed only
19 by complying with the provisions of this act regarding initial
20 licensure and presenting proof of current certification by the
21 **【National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification】**
22 BOC or its successor organization.

23 (cf: P.L.2007, c.323, s.8)

24
25 9. Section 6 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48a) is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 6. a. The State Board of Medical Examiners shall require each
28 person licensed as an athletic trainer, as a condition for biennial
29 license renewal pursuant to section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203
30 (C.45:9-37.48), to complete 24 credits of continuing athletic trainer
31 education, which shall include a specific number of credits of
32 instruction on topics related to concussions and head injuries, as
33 determined by the State Board of Medical Examiners.

34 b. The board shall, in conformance with the standards of the
35 BOC or its successor organization:

36 (1) establish standards for continuing athletic trainer education,
37 including the subject matter and content of courses of study; and

38 (2) accredit education programs offering credit toward continuing
39 athletic trainer education requirements or recognize national or State
40 organizations that may accredit education programs.

41 c. Each hour of an educational course or program shall be
42 equivalent to one credit of continuing athletic trainer education.

43 d. The board may, in its discretion, waive requirements for
44 continuing athletic trainer education on an individual basis for
45 reasons of hardship such as illness or disability, retirement of license,
46 or other good cause. A waiver shall apply only to the current biennial
47 renewal period at the time of board issuance.

- 1 e. The board shall not require completion of continuing athletic
2 trainer education credits for any licensure period commencing within
3 12 months of the effective date of this section.
- 4 f. The board shall require completion of athletic trainer
5 education credits on a pro-rated basis for any registration period
6 commencing more than 12 months but less than 24 months from the
7 effective date of this section.
- 8 g. Prior to license renewal, each licensee shall submit to the
9 board proof of completion of the required number of hours of
10 continuing athletic trainer education.
11 (cf: P.L.2010, c.94, s.6)
- 12
- 13 10. Section 7 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.41) is repealed.
- 14
- 15 11. This act shall take effect immediately.