

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 664

BY SENATORS STOLLINGS, ASHLEY, WILLIAMS AND

PLYMALE

[Introduced February 22, 2016;

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human
Resources; and then to the Committee on Government

Organization/]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-20A-1, §30-20A-2, §30-20A-3, §30-20A-4, §30-20A-5,
 2 §30-20A-6 and §30-20A-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend
 3 said code by adding thereto nine new sections, designated §30-20A-8, §30-20A-9,
 4 §30-20A-10, §30-20A-11, §30-20A-12, §30-20A-13, §30-20A-14, §30-20A-15 and
 5 §30-20A-16, all relating to licensing the practice of athletic training; and providing criminal
 6 penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §30-20A-1, §30-20A-2, §30-20A-3, §30-20A-4, §30-20A-5, §30-20A-6 and
 2 §30-20A-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted; and that
 3 said code be amended by adding thereto nine new sections, designated §30-20A-8, §30-20A-9,
 4 §30-20A-10, §30-20A-11, §30-20A-12, §30-20A-13, §30-20A-14, §30-20A-15 and §30-20A-16,
 5 all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 20A. ATHLETIC TRAINERS.

§30-20A-1. Unlawful acts.

1 (a) It is unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice athletic training in this state
 2 without a license or permit issued under the provisions of this article, or advertise or use any title
 3 or description tending to convey the impression that they are an athletic trainer unless the person
 4 has been duly licensed or permitted under the provisions of this article, and the license or permit
 5 has not expired, been suspended or revoked.

6 (b) A business entity may not render any service or engage in any activity which, if
 7 rendered or engaged in by an individual, would constitute the practice of athletic training, except
 8 through a licensee or permittee.

9 (c) A person may not advertise or represent himself or herself as an "athletic trainer,"
 10 "licensed athletic trainer," "certified athletic trainer," "athletic trainer certified," ".T.," "L.A.T.,"
 11 "C.A.T.," and/or "ATC" or any words, abbreviations, titles or insignia that indicates, implies or
 12 represents that he or she is an athletic trainer, unless he or she is licensed by the board.

§30-20A-2. Applicable law.

1 The practices licensed under the provisions of this article and the Board of Physical
2 Therapy are subject to article one of this chapter, the provisions of this article, and any rules
3 promulgated hereunder.

§30-20A-3. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 "Applicant" means any person making application for an original or renewal license to act
3 as an athletic trainer under the provisions of this article.

4 "Athlete" is a person who participates in sporting events conducted by an educational,
5 professional, amateur or recreational athletic organization.

6 "Athletic injury" means any injury sustained by an athlete that occurs during or as a result
7 of the individual's participation in sports, games, recreation or exercise.

8 "Athletic trainer" is an individual engaged in the practice of athletic training who holds a
9 license under the provisions of this article.

10 "Athletic training" and "the practice of athletic training" means the care and services
11 provided by a licensed athletic trainer as described under the provisions of this article.

12 "Board" means the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy established under article
13 twenty of this chapter.

14 "BOC" means National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification.

15 "CAATE" means the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.

16 "Direct supervision" means the licensed health care professional must be physically
17 present and be able to intervene on behalf of the athletic training student and patient.

18 "General supervision" means referral by prescription to treat conditions for an athlete from
19 a licensed doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, except that the physical presence of the
20 supervising physician or podiatrist is not required if the supervising doctor of medicine, doctor of
21 osteopathy or podiatrist is readily available for consultation by direct communication, radio,

22 telephone, facsimile, telecommunication or other electronic means.

23 "License" means an athletic trainer license or license to act as an athletic trainer issued
24 by the board under the provisions of this article.

25 "Licensed health care professional" means an individual who holds a current license to
26 practice the discipline in the state and whose discipline provides direct patient care in a field that
27 has direct relevancy to the practice and discipline of athletic training.

28 "Licensee" means a person licensed as an athletic trainer under the provisions of this
29 article.

30 "The practice of athletic training" does not include the practice of physical therapy, the
31 practice of occupational therapy, the practice of medicine, the practice of osteopathic medicine
32 and surgery, the practice of chiropractic, or reconditioning of systemic, neurological or other
33 conditions or diseases that are not within the professional preparation and education of a licensed
34 athletic trainer.

§30-20A-4. License to practice athletic training.

1 (a) To be eligible for a license to engage in the practice of athletic training, the applicant
2 must:

- 3 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age;
- 4 (2) Submit an application in the form prescribed by the board;
- 5 (3) Submit a current certification, and be in good standing, with the National Athletic
6 Trainers' Association Board of Certification (BOC) prior to July 1, 2015;

7 (4) If subsequent to July 1, 2015, submit a current certification, and be in good standing,
8 with the BOC and have as minimum passing score on the BOC exam as determined by legislative
9 rule of the Board of Physical Therapy and is a graduate of an accredited institution as approved
10 by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) (or successor
11 organization);

12 (5) Pay the required fee.

13 (6) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in section eleven, article
 14 one-a, chapter twenty-seven of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery
 15 process, which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in a twelve-step
 16 program or other similar group or process, may be considered;

17 (7) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within ten years preceding the
 18 date of application for license which conviction remains unreversed;

19 (8) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense
 20 for which he or she was convicted related to the practice of athletic training, which conviction
 21 remains unreversed; and

22 (9) Has fulfilled any other requirement specified by the board.

23 (b) An athletic trainer shall use the letters "LAT" immediately following his or her name and
 24 "ATC" credential to designate licensure under this article.

§30-20A-5. Scope of practice of an athletic trainer.

1 (a) The practice of athletic training is defined as the application of principles, methods and
 2 procedures for managing athletic injuries, which shall include the preconditioning, conditioning
 3 and reconditioning of an athlete who has suffered an athletic injury through the use of appropriate
 4 preventative and supportive devices, under the general supervision of a physician when working
 5 events conducted by an educational, amateur or professional athletic organization. Direct
 6 supervision is required when athletic training is practiced in all other settings. Athletic training
 7 also includes recognizing illness and referring to the appropriate medical professional and
 8 implementation of treatment pursuant to physician`s orders. Athletic training includes instruction
 9 to coaches, athletes, parents, medical personnel and communities in the area of care and
 10 prevention of athletic injuries.

11 (b) The scope of work described herein shall not be construed as authorizing the
 12 reconditioning of neurologic injuries, conditions or disease.

§30-20A-6. License to practice athletic training from another jurisdiction.

1 (a) The board may issue a license to practice athletic training to an applicant who holds a
2 valid license or other authorization to practice athletic training from another state, if the applicant:

3 (1) Holds a license or other authorization to practice athletic training in another state which
4 was granted after completion of educational requirements substantially equivalent to those
5 required in this state;

6 (2) Does not have charges pending against his or her license or other authorization to
7 practice, and has never had a license or other authorization to practice revoked;

8 (3) Has paid the applicable fee;

9 (4) Is a citizen of the United States or is eligible for employment in the United States; and

10 (5) Has fulfilled any other requirement specified by the board.

11 (b) The board may issue a license to practice athletic training to an applicant who has
12 been educated outside of the United States; however, the applicant must still sit for the BOC exam
13 through the mutual recognition agreement and possess the ATC credential in order to practice as
14 a licensed athletic trainer in West Virginia.

§30-20A-7. Temporary permits.

1 (a) Upon completion of the application and payment of the nonrefundable fees, the board
2 may issue a temporary permit, for a period not to exceed ninety days, to an applicant to practice
3 as an athletic trainer in this state, if the applicant has completed the educational requirements set
4 out in this article.

5 (b) A temporary permit may be revoked by a majority vote of the board.

6 (c) An applicant may be issued only one temporary permit, and upon the expiration of the
7 temporary permit, may not practice as an athletic trainer until he or she is fully licensed under the
8 provisions of this article.

§30-20A-8. Renewal requirements.

1 (a) All persons regulated by this article shall annually or biannually before January 1,
2 renew his or her license by completing a form prescribed by the board and submitting any other

3 information required by the board.

4 (b) The board shall charge a fee for each renewal of a license and shall charge a late fee
5 for any renewal not paid by the due date.

6 (c) The board shall require as a condition of renewal that each licensee complete
7 continuing education pursuant to BOC requirements.

8 (d) A licensee may apply to renew his or her license by submitting an application for
9 renewal in the form prescribed by the board and paying the renewal fee. The renewal application
10 must be signed by the applicant.

11 (e) The board may deny an application for renewal for any reason which would justify the
12 denial of an original application for a license.

13 (f) A renewal of license issued by the board is valid for two years from the date it is issued.

§30-20A-9. Delinquent and expired license requirements.

1 (a) If a license is not renewed when due, then the board shall automatically place the
2 licensee on delinquent status.

3 (b) The fee for a person on delinquent status shall increase at a rate, determined by the
4 board, for each month or fraction thereof that the renewal fee is not paid, up to a maximum of
5 thirty-six months.

6 (c) Within thirty-six months of being placed on delinquent status, if a licensee wants to
7 return to active practice, he or she must complete all the continuing education requirements and
8 pay all the applicable fees as set by rule.

9 (d) After thirty-six months of being placed on delinquent status, a license is automatically
10 placed on expired status and cannot be renewed. A person whose license has expired must
11 reapply for a new license.

§30-20A-10. Inactive license requirements.

1 (a) A licensee who does not want to continue an active practice shall notify the board in
2 writing and be granted inactive status.

3 (b) A person granted inactive status is not subject to the payment of any fee and may not
4 practice athletic training in this state.

5 (c) When the person wants to return to the practice of athletic training the person shall
6 submit an application for renewal along with all applicable fees as set by rule.

§30-20A-11. Exemptions from licensure.

1 (a) The following persons are exempt from licensing requirements under the provisions of
2 this article:

3 (1) A person who practices athletic training pursuant to a course of study at an institution
4 of higher learning and enrolled in a CAATE accredited athletic training program including, but not
5 limited to, activities conducted at the institution of higher learning and activities conducted outside
6 the institution if under the supervision of a licensed health care professional.

7 (2) A secondary school student under the supervision of a licensed athletic trainer.

8 (3) An athletic trainer who is licensed in another jurisdiction of the United States or
9 credentialed to practice athletic training in another country if that person is teaching,
10 demonstrating or providing athletic training services in connection with teaching or participating
11 in an educational seminar of no more than sixty calendar days in a calendar year;

12 (4) An athletic trainer who is licensed in another state if that person is consulting;

13 (5) An athletic trainer who is licensed in another jurisdiction, if that person by contract or
14 employment is providing athletic training to individuals affiliated with or employed by established
15 athletic teams, athletic organizations or performing arts companies temporarily practicing,
16 competing or performing in the state for no more than sixty calendar days in a calendar year;

17 (6) An athletic trainer who is licensed in another jurisdiction who enters this state to provide
18 athletic training during a declared local, state or national disaster or emergency. This exemption
19 applies for no longer than sixty calendar days in a calendar year following the declaration of the
20 emergency. The athletic trainer shall notify the board of his or her intent to practice;

21 (7) An athletic trainer licensed in another jurisdiction who is forced to leave his or her

22 residence or place of employment due to a declared local, state or national disaster or emergency
23 and due to the displacement seeks to practice as an athletic trainer. This exemption applies for
24 no longer than sixty calendar days in a calendar year following the declaration of the emergency.
25 The athletic trainer shall notify the board of their intent to practice; and

26 (8) Nothing contained in this article prohibits a person from practicing within his or her
27 scope of practice as authorized by law.

§30-20A-12. Display of license.

1 (a) The board shall prescribe the form for a license and permit, and may issue a duplicate
2 license or permit upon payment of a fee.

3 (b) Any person regulated by the article shall conspicuously display his or her license or
4 permit at his or her principal business location.

§30-20A-13. Complaints; investigations; due process procedure; grounds for disciplinary
action.

1 (a) The board may upon its own motion based on credible information, and shall upon the
2 written complaint of any person, cause an investigation to be made to determine whether grounds
3 exist for disciplinary action under this article or the legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this
4 article.

5 (b) Upon initiation or receipt of the complaint, the board shall provide a copy of the
6 complaint to the licensee or permittee.

7 (c) After reviewing any information obtained through an investigation, the board shall
8 determine if probable cause exists that the licensee or permittee has violated subsection (g) of
9 this section or rules promulgated pursuant to this article.

10 (d) Upon a finding that probable cause exists that the licensee or permittee has violated
11 subsection (g) of this section or rules promulgated pursuant to this article, the board may enter
12 into a consent decree or hold a hearing for the suspension or revocation of the license or permit
13 or the imposition of sanctions against the licensee or permittee. Any hearing shall be held in

14 accordance with the provisions of this article.

15 (e) Any member of the board or the executive secretary of the board may issue subpoenas
16 and subpoenas duces tecum to obtain testimony and documents to aid in the investigation of
17 allegations against any person regulated by the article.

18 (f) Any member of the board or its executive secretary may sign a consent decree or other
19 legal document on behalf of the board.

20 (g) The board may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, deny or refuse to renew,
21 suspend, restrict or revoke the license or permit of, or impose probationary conditions upon or
22 take disciplinary action against, any licensee or permittee for any of the following reasons once a
23 violation has been proven by a preponderance of the evidence:

24 (1) Obtaining a license or permit by fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of material
25 facts;

26 (2) Being convicted of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude;

27 (3) Being guilty of unprofessional conduct which placed the public at risk, as defined by
28 legislative rule of the board;

29 (4) Intentional violation of a lawful order or legislative rule of the board;

30 (5) Having had a license or other authorization revoked or suspended, other disciplinary
31 action taken, or an application for licensure or other authorization revoked or suspended by the
32 proper authorities of another jurisdiction;

33 (6) Aiding or abetting unlicensed practice; or

34 (7) Engaging in an act while acting in a professional capacity which has endangered or is
35 likely to endanger the health, welfare or safety of the public.

36 (h) For the purposes of subsection (g) of this section, effective July 1, 2015, disciplinary
37 action may include:

38 (1) Reprimand;

39 (2) Probation;

- 40 (3) Restrictions;
- 41 (4) Administrative fine, not to exceed \$1,000 per day per violation;
- 42 (5) Mandatory attendance at continuing education seminars or other training;
- 43 (6) Practicing under supervision or other restriction; or
- 44 (7) Requiring the licensee or permittee to report to the board for periodic interviews for a
- 45 specified period of time.

46 (i) In addition to any other sanction imposed, the board may require a licensee or permittee
 47 to pay the costs of the proceeding.

§30-20A-14. Procedures for hearing; right of appeal.

- 1 (a) Hearings are governed by the provisions of section eight, article one of this chapter.
- 2 (b) The board may conduct the hearing or elect to have an administrative law judge
- 3 conduct the hearing.
- 4 (c) If the hearing is conducted by an administrative law judge, at the conclusion of a
- 5 hearing he or she shall prepare a proposed written order containing findings of fact and
- 6 conclusions of law. The proposed order may contain proposed disciplinary actions if the board so
- 7 directs. The board may accept, reject or modify the decision of the administrative law judge.
- 8 (d) Any member or the executive secretary of the board has the authority to administer
- 9 oaths, examine any person under oath and issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum.
- 10 (e) If, after a hearing, the board determines the licensee or permittee has violated
- 11 provisions of this article or the board's rules, a formal written decision shall be prepared which
- 12 contains findings of fact, conclusions of law and a specific description of the disciplinary actions
- 13 imposed.

§30-20A-15. Judicial review.

1 Any licensee or permittee adversely affected by a decision of the board entered after a
 2 hearing may obtain judicial review of the decision in accordance with section four, article five,
 3 chapter twenty-nine-a of this code, and may appeal any ruling resulting from judicial review in

4 accordance with article six, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code.

§30-20A-16. Criminal proceedings; penalties.

1 (a) When, as a result of an investigation under this article or otherwise, the board has
2 reason to believe that a licensee or permittee has committed a criminal offense under this article,
3 the board may bring its information to the attention of an appropriate law-enforcement official.

4 (b) A person violating section one of this article is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
5 conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$5,000 or confined in jail not
6 more than six months, or both fined and confined.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to rewrite the law governing athletic trainers. Athletic trainers would be licensed rather than registered as under current law.

This article has been completely rewritten; therefore, it has been completely underscored.