

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5270

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Delegates Hornbuckle and Lewis

[Introduced February 05, 2026; referred to the

Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §18-2-47, relating to requiring public high schools to have full-time athletic
3 trainers.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-47. Public schools to have full-time athletic trainers.

1 (a) County boards shall provide proper medical services to all high school student athletes
2 attending the schools of their county and shall have the authority to take any other action
3 necessary to protect student athletes from injury, infectious diseases, or any other health condition
4 affecting participation in athletic and related activities.

5 (b) Each county board shall employ full time a minimum of one licensed athletic trainer for
6 each high school participating in organized sports, ROTC, and performing arts to provide
7 healthcare for all student-athletes regardless of gender or activity. The county may opt to directly
8 hire a full-time athletic trainer to be paid from their annual budget, moneys from levies or with
9 COVID CARES ACT funds, or the county may contract with a healthcare facility or university to
10 employ a full-time athletic trainer.

11 (c) Any person employed as an athletic trainer must be a certified athletic trainer licensed
12 by the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy in accordance with §30-20A-2 of this code.

13 (d) Specialized health procedures that require the skill, knowledge and judgement of a
14 licensed health professional may be performed only by licensed athletic trainers, or another
15 licensed school health care provider such as Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathy, Doctor of
16 Chiropractic, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or Physical Therapist
17 who have been trained and retrained every two years. For the purposes of this section "specialized
18 health procedures" includes, but is not limited to, concussion evaluation, management, and return
19 to play in accordance with §18-2-25a of this code, musculoskeletal injury evaluation,
20 management, and return to play, acute injury and illness in athletic participation, and management

21 of environmental illnesses and conditions.

22 (e) The licensed athletic trainer shall be responsible for compliance with all WVSSAC
23 policies and provisions, including §18-2-25a (concussions), §18-2-25c (AED) and §18-2-25b
24 (Emergency Action Plans for sports) of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to have full-time athletic trainers at public high schools in West Virginia.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.