

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Athletic Trainers Practice Act is
5 amended by changing Sections 3, 4, 13, and 16 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 5/3) (from Ch. 111, par. 7603)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

8 Sec. 3. Definitions. As used in this Act:

9 (1) "Department" means the Department of Financial and
10 Professional Regulation.

11 (2) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Financial and
12 Professional Regulation.

13 (3) "Board" means the Illinois Board of Athletic Trainers
14 appointed by the Secretary.

15 (4) "Licensed athletic trainer" means a person licensed to
16 practice athletic training as defined in this Act and with the
17 specific qualifications set forth in Section 9 of this Act
18 who, upon the direction or consultation of a ~~his or her team~~
19 ~~physician or consulting physician~~, carries out the practice of
20 evaluation, prevention or emergency ~~prevention/emergency~~ care,
21 or physical reconditioning of injuries incurred by athletes
22 ~~participating in an athletic program~~ conducted by an
23 educational institution, professional athletic organization,

1 ~~or~~ sanctioned amateur athletic organization, performing arts
2 setting, clinical setting, or employment setting employing the
3 athletic trainer; or a person who, under the direction of a
4 physician, carries out comparable functions for a health
5 organization-based extramural program of athletic training
6 services for athletes. Specific duties of the athletic trainer
7 include, but are not limited to:

8 A. Supervision of the selection, fitting, and
9 maintenance of protective equipment;

10 B. Provision of assistance to the coaching staff in
11 the development and implementation of conditioning
12 programs;

13 C. Counseling of athletes on nutrition and hygiene;

14 D. Supervision of athletic training facility and
15 inspection of playing facilities;

16 E. Selection and maintenance of athletic training
17 equipment and supplies;

18 F. (Blank); ~~Instruction and supervision of student~~
19 ~~trainer staff;~~

20 G. Coordination with a ~~team~~ physician to provide:

21 (i) pre-competition physical exam and health
22 history updates,

23 (ii) game coverage or phone access to a physician
24 or paramedic,

25 (iii) follow-up injury care,

26 (iv) reconditioning programs, and

1 (v) assistance on all matters pertaining to the
2 health and well-being of athletes;~~;~~

3 H. Provision of on-site injury care and evaluation as
4 well as appropriate transportation, follow-up treatment
5 and reconditioning ~~rehabilitation~~ as necessary for all
6 injuries sustained by athletes in the program;

7 I. With a physician, determination of when an athlete
8 may safely return to full participation post-injury; ~~and~~

9 J. Maintenance of complete and accurate records of all
10 athlete ~~athletic~~ injuries and treatments rendered; and ~~-~~

11 K. Written reports to a referring individual every 30
12 days services are provided.

13 To carry out these functions the athletic trainer is
14 authorized to utilize modalities, including, but not limited
15 to, heat, light, sound, cold, electricity, exercise, or
16 mechanical devices related to care and reconditioning. An
17 athletic trainer may also carry out these functions upon
18 receiving a referral. A licensed athletic trainer shall use
19 "LAT" or "L.A.T." in connection with the athletic trainer's
20 name to denote licensure under this Act.

21 (5) "Referral" means the written authorization for
22 athletic trainer services as provided in paragraph (4)
23 guidance and direction given by a the physician, physician
24 assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, podiatric
25 physician, or dentist, who shall maintain medical supervision
26 of the athlete and makes a diagnosis or verifies that the

1 patient's condition is such that it may be treated by an
2 athletic trainer.

3 (6) "Aide" ~~Athletic trainer aide~~ means a person who has
4 received on-the-job training specific to the facility in which
5 he or she is employed, on either a paid or volunteer basis, but
6 is not enrolled in an accredited ~~athletic training~~ curriculum.

7 (7) "Address of record" means the designated address
8 recorded by the Department in the applicant's or licensee's
9 application file or license file as maintained by the
10 Department's licensure maintenance unit. It is the duty of the
11 applicant or licensee to inform the Department of any change
12 of address, and those changes must be made either through the
13 Department's website or by contacting the Department.

14 (8) "Board of Certification" means the Board of
15 Certification for the Athletic Trainer.

16 (9) "Athlete" means a person participating in an activity
17 that requires a level of strength, endurance, flexibility,
18 range of motion, speed, or agility which may include exercise,
19 sports, recreation, wellness, or employment activity.

20 (10) "Physician assistant" means a physician assistant
21 licensed to practice under the Physician Assistant Practice
22 Act of 1987 in accordance with a written collaborative
23 agreement with a physician licensed to practice medicine in
24 all of its branches.

25 (11) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an
26 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to practice under

1 the Nurse Practice Act in accordance with a written
2 collaborative agreement with a physician licensed under the
3 Medical Practice Act of 1987.

4 (Source: P.A. 99-469, eff. 8-26-15.)

5 (225 ILCS 5/4) (from Ch. 111, par. 7604)

6 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

7 Sec. 4. Licensure; exempt activities. No person shall
8 provide any of the services set forth in subsection (4) of
9 Section 3 of this Act, or use the title "athletic trainer" or
10 "certified athletic trainer" or "athletic trainer certified"
11 or "licensed athletic trainer" or the letters "LAT", "L.A.T.",
12 "A.T.", "C.A.T.", "A.T.C.", "A.C.T.", or "I.A.T.L." after the
13 athletic trainer's ~~his or her~~ name, unless licensed under this
14 Act.

15 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as preventing or
16 restricting the practice, services, or activities of:

17 (1) Any person licensed or registered in this State by
18 any other law from engaging in the profession or
19 occupation for which he or she is licensed or registered.

20 (2) Any person employed as an athletic trainer by the
21 Government of the United States, if such person provides
22 athletic training solely under the direction or control of
23 the organization by which he or she is employed.

24 (3) Any person pursuing a course of study leading to a
25 degree ~~or certificate~~ in athletic training at an

1 accredited educational program if such activities and
2 services constitute a part of a supervised course of study
3 involving daily personal or verbal contact at the site of
4 supervision between the athletic training student and the
5 licensed athletic trainer who plans, directs, advises, and
6 evaluates the student's athletic training clinical
7 education. The supervising licensed athletic trainer must
8 be on-site where the athletic training clinical education
9 is being obtained. A person meeting the criteria under
10 this paragraph (3) must be designated by a title which
11 clearly indicates his or her status as a student ~~or~~
12 ~~trainee~~.

13 (4) (Blank).

14 (5) The practice of athletic training under the
15 supervision of a licensed athletic trainer by one who has
16 applied in writing to the Department for licensure and has
17 complied with all the provisions of Section 9 except the
18 passing of the examination to be eligible to receive such
19 license. This temporary right to act as an athletic
20 trainer shall expire 3 months after the filing of his or
21 her written application to the Department; when the
22 applicant has been notified of his or her failure to pass
23 the examination authorized by the Department; when the
24 applicant has withdrawn his or her application; when the
25 applicant has received a license from the Department after
26 successfully passing the examination authorized by the

1 Department; or when the applicant has been notified by the
2 Department to cease and desist from practicing, whichever
3 occurs first. This provision shall not apply to an
4 applicant who has previously failed the examination.

5 (6) Any person in a coaching position from rendering
6 emergency care on an as needed basis to the athletes under
7 his or her supervision when a licensed athletic trainer is
8 not available.

9 (7) Any person who is an athletic trainer from another
10 state or territory of the United States or another nation,
11 state, or territory acting as an athletic trainer while
12 performing his or her duties for his or her respective
13 non-Illinois based team or organization, so long as he or
14 she restricts his or her duties to his or her team or
15 organization during the course of his or her team's or
16 organization's stay in this State. For the purposes of
17 this Act, a team shall be considered based in Illinois if
18 its home contests are held in Illinois, regardless of the
19 location of the team's administrative offices.

20 (8) The practice of athletic training by persons
21 licensed in another state who have applied in writing to
22 the Department for licensure by endorsement. This
23 temporary right to act as an athletic trainer shall expire
24 6 months after the filing of his or her written
25 application to the Department; upon the withdrawal of the
26 application for licensure under this Act; upon delivery of

1 a notice of intent to deny the application from the
2 Department; or upon the denial of the application by the
3 Department, whichever occurs first.

4 (9) The practice of athletic training by one who has
5 applied in writing to the Department for licensure and has
6 complied with all the provisions of Section 9. This
7 temporary right to act as an athletic trainer shall expire
8 6 months after the filing of his or her written
9 application to the Department; upon the withdrawal of the
10 application for licensure under this Act; upon delivery of
11 a notice of intent to deny the application from the
12 Department; or upon the denial of the application by the
13 Department, whichever occurs first.

14 (10) The practice of athletic training by persons
15 actively licensed as an athletic trainer in another state
16 or territory of the United States or another country, or
17 currently certified by the Board of Certification, or its
18 successor entity, at a special athletic tournament or
19 event conducted by a sanctioned amateur athletic
20 organization, ~~including, but not limited to, the Prairie~~
21 ~~State Games and the Special Olympics,~~ for no more than 14
22 days. This shall not include contests or events that are
23 part of a scheduled series of regular season events.

24 (11) Aides ~~Athletic trainer aides~~ from performing
25 patient care activities under the on-site supervision of a
26 licensed athletic trainer. These patient care activities

1 shall not include interpretation of referrals or
2 evaluation procedures, planning or major modifications of
3 patient programs, administration of medication, or solo
4 practice or event coverage without immediate access to a
5 licensed athletic trainer.

6 (12) Persons or entities practicing the specified
7 occupations set forth in subsection (a) of, and pursuant
8 to a licensing exemption granted in subsection (b) or (d)
9 of, Section 2105-350 of the Department of Professional
10 Regulation Law of the Civil Administrative Code of
11 Illinois, but only for so long as the 2016 Olympic and
12 Paralympic Games Professional Licensure Exemption Law is
13 operable.

14 (Source: P.A. 99-469, eff. 8-26-15.)

15 (225 ILCS 5/13) (from Ch. 111, par. 7613)

16 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

17 Sec. 13. Endorsement. The Department may, at its
18 discretion, license as an athletic trainer, without
19 examination, on payment of the required fee, an applicant for
20 licensure who is an athletic trainer registered or licensed
21 under the laws of another jurisdiction if the requirements
22 pertaining to athletic trainers in such jurisdiction were at
23 the date of his or her registration or licensure substantially
24 equal to the requirements in force in Illinois on that date or
25 equivalent to the requirements of this Act.

1 An applicant for endorsement who has practiced for 10
2 consecutive years in another jurisdiction shall meet the
3 requirements for licensure by endorsement upon filing an
4 application on forms provided by the Department, paying the
5 required fee, and showing proof of licensure in another
6 jurisdiction for at least 10 consecutive years without
7 discipline by certified verification of licensure from the
8 jurisdiction in which the applicant practiced.

9 Applicants have 3 years from the date of application to
10 complete the application process. If the process has not been
11 completed in 3 years, the application shall be denied, the fee
12 forfeited and the applicant must reapply and meet the
13 requirements in effect at the time of reapplication.

14 (Source: P.A. 99-469, eff. 8-26-15.)

15 (225 ILCS 5/16) (from Ch. 111, par. 7616)

16 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026)

17 Sec. 16. Grounds for discipline.

18 (1) The Department may refuse to issue or renew, or may
19 revoke, suspend, place on probation, reprimand, or take other
20 disciplinary action as the Department may deem proper,
21 including fines not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation, with
22 regard to any licensee for any one or combination of the
23 following:

24 (A) Material misstatement in furnishing information to
25 the Department;

1 (B) Violations of this Act, or of the rules or
2 regulations promulgated hereunder;

3 (C) Conviction of or plea of guilty to any crime under
4 the Criminal Code of 2012 or the laws of any jurisdiction
5 of the United States that is (i) a felony, (ii) a
6 misdemeanor, an essential element of which is dishonesty,
7 or (iii) of any crime that is directly related to the
8 practice of the profession;

9 (D) Fraud or any misrepresentation in applying for or
10 procuring a license under this Act, or in connection with
11 applying for renewal of a license under this Act;

12 (E) Professional incompetence or gross negligence;

13 (F) Malpractice;

14 (G) Aiding or assisting another person, firm,
15 partnership, or corporation in violating any provision of
16 this Act or rules;

17 (H) Failing, within 60 days, to provide information in
18 response to a written request made by the Department;

19 (I) Engaging in dishonorable, unethical, or
20 unprofessional conduct of a character likely to deceive,
21 defraud or harm the public;

22 (J) Habitual or excessive use or abuse of drugs
23 defined in law as controlled substances, alcohol, or any
24 other substance that results in the inability to practice
25 with reasonable judgment, skill, or safety;

26 (K) Discipline by another state, unit of government,

1 government agency, the District of Columbia, territory, or
2 foreign nation, if at least one of the grounds for the
3 discipline is the same or substantially equivalent to
4 those set forth herein;

5 (L) Directly or indirectly giving to or receiving from
6 any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association
7 any fee, commission, rebate, or other form of compensation
8 for any professional services not actually or personally
9 rendered. Nothing in this subparagraph (L) affects any
10 bona fide independent contractor or employment
11 arrangements among health care professionals, health
12 facilities, health care providers, or other entities,
13 except as otherwise prohibited by law. Any employment
14 arrangements may include provisions for compensation,
15 health insurance, pension, or other employment benefits
16 for the provision of services within the scope of the
17 licensee's practice under this Act. Nothing in this
18 subparagraph (L) shall be construed to require an
19 employment arrangement to receive professional fees for
20 services rendered;

21 (M) A finding by the Department that the licensee
22 after having his or her license disciplined has violated
23 the terms of probation;

24 (N) Abandonment of an athlete;

25 (O) Willfully making or filing false records or
26 reports in his or her practice, including but not limited

1 to false records filed with State agencies or departments;

2 (P) Willfully failing to report an instance of
3 suspected child abuse or neglect as required by the Abused
4 and Neglected Child Reporting Act;

5 (Q) Physical illness, including but not limited to
6 deterioration through the aging process, or loss of motor
7 skill that results in the inability to practice the
8 profession with reasonable judgment, skill, or safety;

9 (R) Solicitation of professional services other than
10 by permitted institutional policy;

11 (S) The use of any words, abbreviations, figures or
12 letters with the intention of indicating practice as an
13 athletic trainer without a valid license as an athletic
14 trainer under this Act;

15 (T) The evaluation or treatment of ailments of human
16 beings other than by the practice of athletic training as
17 defined in this Act or the treatment of injuries of
18 athletes by a licensed athletic trainer except by the
19 referral of a physician, physician assistant, advanced
20 practice registered nurse, podiatric physician, or
21 dentist;

22 (U) Willfully violating or knowingly assisting in the
23 violation of any law of this State relating to the use of
24 habit-forming drugs;

25 (V) Willfully violating or knowingly assisting in the
26 violation of any law of this State relating to the

1 practice of abortion;

2 (W) Continued practice by a person knowingly having an
3 infectious communicable or contagious disease;

4 (X) Being named as a perpetrator in an indicated
5 report by the Department of Children and Family Services
6 pursuant to the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act
7 and upon proof by clear and convincing evidence that the
8 licensee has caused a child to be an abused child or
9 neglected child as defined in the Abused and Neglected
10 Child Reporting Act;

11 (X-5) Failure to provide a monthly report on the
12 patient's progress to the referring physician, physician
13 assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, podiatric
14 physician, or dentist;

15 (Y) (Blank);

16 (Z) Failure to fulfill continuing education
17 requirements;

18 (AA) Allowing one's license under this Act to be used
19 by an unlicensed person in violation of this Act;

20 (BB) Practicing under a false or, except as provided
21 by law, assumed name;

22 (CC) Promotion of the sale of drugs, devices,
23 appliances, or goods provided in any manner to exploit the
24 client for the financial gain of the licensee;

25 (DD) Gross, willful, or continued overcharging for
26 professional services;

1 (EE) Mental illness or disability that results in the
2 inability to practice under this Act with reasonable
3 judgment, skill, or safety; ~~or~~

4 (FF) Cheating on or attempting to subvert the
5 licensing examination administered under this Act; ~~or~~

6 (GG) Violation of the Health Care Worker Self-Referral
7 Act; or

8 (HH) Failure by a supervising athletic trainer of an
9 aide to maintain contact, including personal supervision
10 and instruction, to ensure the safety and welfare of an
11 athlete.

12 All fines imposed under this Section shall be paid within
13 60 days after the effective date of the order imposing the fine
14 or in accordance with the terms set forth in the order imposing
15 the fine.

16 (2) The determination by a circuit court that a licensee
17 is subject to involuntary admission or judicial admission as
18 provided in the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
19 Code operates as an automatic suspension. Such suspension will
20 end only upon a finding by a court that the licensee is no
21 longer subject to involuntary admission or judicial admission
22 and issuance of an order so finding and discharging the
23 licensee.

24 (3) The Department may refuse to issue or may suspend
25 without hearing, as provided for in the Code of Civil
26 Procedure, the license of any person who fails to file a

1 return, to pay the tax, penalty, or interest shown in a filed
2 return, or to pay any final assessment of tax, penalty, or
3 interest as required by any tax Act administered by the
4 Illinois Department of Revenue, until such time as the
5 requirements of any such tax Act are satisfied in accordance
6 with subsection (a) of Section 2105-15 of the Department of
7 Professional Regulation Law of the Civil Administrative Code
8 of Illinois.

9 (4) In enforcing this Section, the Department, upon a
10 showing of a possible violation, may compel any individual who
11 is licensed under this Act or any individual who has applied
12 for licensure to submit to a mental or physical examination or
13 evaluation, or both, which may include a substance abuse or
14 sexual offender evaluation, at the expense of the Department.
15 The Department shall specifically designate the examining
16 physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches
17 or, if applicable, the multidisciplinary team involved in
18 providing the mental or physical examination and evaluation.
19 The multidisciplinary team shall be led by a physician
20 licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches and may
21 consist of one or more or a combination of physicians licensed
22 to practice medicine in all of its branches, licensed
23 chiropractic physicians, licensed clinical psychologists,
24 licensed clinical social workers, licensed clinical
25 professional counselors, and other professional and
26 administrative staff. Any examining physician or member of the

1 multidisciplinary team may require any person ordered to
2 submit to an examination and evaluation pursuant to this
3 Section to submit to any additional supplemental testing
4 deemed necessary to complete any examination or evaluation
5 process, including, but not limited to, blood testing,
6 urinalysis, psychological testing, or neuropsychological
7 testing.

8 The Department may order the examining physician or any
9 member of the multidisciplinary team to provide to the
10 Department any and all records, including business records,
11 that relate to the examination and evaluation, including any
12 supplemental testing performed. The Department may order the
13 examining physician or any member of the multidisciplinary
14 team to present testimony concerning this examination and
15 evaluation of the licensee or applicant, including testimony
16 concerning any supplemental testing or documents relating to
17 the examination and evaluation. No information, report,
18 record, or other documents in any way related to the
19 examination and evaluation shall be excluded by reason of any
20 common law or statutory privilege relating to communication
21 between the licensee or applicant and the examining physician
22 or any member of the multidisciplinary team. No authorization
23 is necessary from the licensee or applicant ordered to undergo
24 an evaluation and examination for the examining physician or
25 any member of the multidisciplinary team to provide
26 information, reports, records, or other documents or to

1 provide any testimony regarding the examination and
2 evaluation. The individual to be examined may have, at his or
3 her own expense, another physician of his or her choice
4 present during all aspects of the examination.

5 Failure of any individual to submit to a mental or
6 physical examination or evaluation, or both, when directed,
7 shall result in an automatic suspension without hearing, until
8 such time as the individual submits to the examination. If the
9 Department finds a licensee unable to practice because of the
10 reasons set forth in this Section, the Department shall
11 require the licensee to submit to care, counseling, or
12 treatment by physicians approved or designated by the
13 Department as a condition for continued, reinstated, or
14 renewed licensure.

15 When the Secretary immediately suspends a license under
16 this Section, a hearing upon such person's license must be
17 convened by the Department within 15 days after the suspension
18 and completed without appreciable delay. The Department shall
19 have the authority to review the licensee's record of
20 treatment and counseling regarding the impairment to the
21 extent permitted by applicable federal statutes and
22 regulations safeguarding the confidentiality of medical
23 records.

24 Individuals licensed under this Act who are affected under
25 this Section shall be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate
26 to the Department that they can resume practice in compliance

1 with acceptable and prevailing standards under the provisions
2 of their license.

3 (5) (Blank).

4 (6) In cases where the Department of Healthcare and Family
5 Services has previously determined a licensee or a potential
6 licensee is more than 30 days delinquent in the payment of
7 child support and has subsequently certified the delinquency
8 to the Department, the Department may refuse to issue or renew
9 or may revoke or suspend that person's license or may take
10 other disciplinary action against that person based solely
11 upon the certification of delinquency made by the Department
12 of Healthcare and Family Services in accordance with paragraph
13 (5) of subsection (a) of Section 2105-15 of the Department of
14 Professional Regulation Law of the Civil Administrative Code
15 of Illinois.

16 (Source: P.A. 99-469, eff. 8-26-15; 100-872, eff. 8-14-18.)