



February 7, 2025

Proponent Testimony SB 175

Shawna Jordan, PhD, ATC, LAT

Kansas Athletic Trainers Society-Governmental Affairs Chair

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Athletic Trainers Society, I am providing written testimony for SB 175, which would update the definition of an athletic trainer and provide an exemption for those licensed in another state, District of Columbia, territory, or foreign country to practice in Kansas.

This bill reflects the changes in the athletic training education preparation for obtaining the national certification as well as allowing athletic trainers from other states to practice in Kansas when traveling with their teams and organizations for competitions.

Per the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, athletic trainers are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize the activity and participation of patients and clients. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities. The American Medical Association recognizes athletic training as a healthcare profession.

The athletic trainer's professional preparation is based on the development of the current knowledge, skills, and abilities as determined by the Commission. The knowledge and skills identified in the competencies consist of 8 content areas: evidence-based practice, prevention and health promotion, clinical examination and diagnosis, acute care of injury and illness, therapeutic interventions, psychosocial strategies and referral, healthcare administration, and professional development and responsibility.

The Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer establishes both the standards of practice of athletic training and the continuing education requirements for the Board of Certification-Certified athletic trainers. To obtain the Board of Certification, an individual must graduate from an athletic training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education with a master's degree. The Practice Analysis, 8th Edition defines the current entry-level knowledge skills, and abilities required for practice in the profession of athletic training.

The updates proposed with SB 175, reflect the modernization of the profession of athletic training as well as the changes with the educational requirements for athletic training accredited programs. These updates will allow the athletic trainers in Kansas to practice to the full extent of their education as well as increase employment opportunities.