

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 266 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H2/13/25 H2/19/25 S3/3/25
95th General Assembly **A Bill**
Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1213

By: Representatives Achor, Gramlich, L. Johnson

By: Senators C. Penzo, K. Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ATHLETIC TRAINERS ACT;
TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF "ATHLETE" WITHIN THE
ARKANSAS ATHLETIC TRAINERS ACT; TO DEFINE "HEALTHCARE
PROVIDER" REGARDING STUDENT ATHLETE CONCUSSION
EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS ATHLETIC TRAINERS
ACT; TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF
"ATHLETE"; AND TO DEFINE "HEALTHCARE
PROVIDER" REGARDING STUDENT ATHLETE
CONCUSSION EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-710(a), concerning definitions related to student athlete concussion education, is amended to read as follows:

6-18-710. Student athlete concussion education – Definition.

(a)~~(1)~~ As used in this section:

(1) "Healthcare provider" means an allopathic or osteopathic physician, neuropsychologist, advanced practice registered nurse, certified athletic trainer, physician assistant, or physical therapist; and

(2)(A) "Youth ~~youth~~ athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity in which the participants, a majority of whom are under nineteen (19) years of age are:

~~(A)(i)~~ Engaged in an athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity; or



~~(B)(ii)~~ In practice or preparation for an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity.

~~(2)(B)~~ "Youth athletic activity" does not include a college or university activity or an activity that is incidental to a nonathletic program.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-710(c), concerning student athlete concussion education, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) The Department of Health shall develop concussion protocols substantially similar to those developed and implemented by the Arkansas Activities Association to protect all youth athletes engaged in youth athletic activities in Arkansas.

(2) The Department of Health shall provide an updated type of healthcare provider list to the Arkansas Activities Association based on the definition under subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-93-402 is amended to read as follows:
17-93-402. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Athlete" means an individual who is participating in ~~organized athletic or team activities at the interscholastic, intramural, intercollegiate, or professional level, or sanctioned recreational sports activities~~ activities of recreation, sport, exercise, or tactical duty;

(2) "Athletic injury or illness" means an injury or illness sustained by the athlete as a result of participation in ~~those organized athletic or team activities~~ activities of recreation, sport, exercise, or tactical duty which require physical strength, agility, flexibility, range of motion, speed, or stamina, or any comparable injury or illness to an athlete which prevents the person from participating in activities described in subdivision (1) of this section;

(3) "Athletic trainer" means a person licensed by the state to engage in athletic training;

(4) "Athletic training" means the prevention, recognition, evaluation, treatment, and rehabilitation of an athletic injury or illness and the organization and administration of exercise, conditioning, and athletic training programs;

(5) "Clinical setting" means a hospital or outpatient clinic;

(6)(A) "Consultation" means the rendering by a physician of a professional opinion, an expert opinion, or advice to an athletic trainer.

(B) "Consultation" may be provided through telecommunication technology;

(7)(A) "Freestanding rehabilitation clinic" means a rehabilitation clinic that is not located on the campus of a hospital or healthcare system.

(B) "Freestanding rehabilitation clinic" does not include a physician's office;

(8) "Direct supervision" means supervision of the athletic trainer in a ~~clinical setting~~ freestanding rehabilitation clinic by the supervising physical therapist ~~or physician~~ who is readily available for consultation for the care of the athlete and is on the premises;

~~(7)(9)~~ "Direction" means direction of the athletic trainer in a nonclinical setting or physician's office by a physician who is readily available for consultation for the care of the athlete but not necessarily on the premises;

~~(8)(10)~~ "License" means the document issued by the Arkansas State Board of Athletic Training to a qualified person to practice athletic training; and

~~(9)~~ "Sanctioned recreational sports activities" means any athletic or team activity which requires physical strength, agility, flexibility, range of motion, speed, or stamina and meets one (1) or more of the following:

~~(A) Has officially designated coaches who have the responsibility for athletic activities of the organization;~~

~~(B) Has a regular schedule of practices or workouts which are supervised by the officially designated coaches;~~

~~(C) Is an activity generally recognized as having an established schedule of competitive events or exhibitions; and~~

~~(D) Has a policy requiring documentation of having passed a preparticipation medical examination conducted by a licensed physician as a condition for participation for the athletic activities of the organization~~

(11) "Tactical duty" means activities of law enforcement, military, or rescue services.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-93-411 is amended to read as follows:

17-93-411. Direction and supervision.

(a) In a nonclinical setting, an athletic trainer may practice the art and science of athletic training under the direction of a physician licensed by the Arkansas State Medical Board.

(b)(1) ~~The athletic trainer may practice athletic training in a hospital or outpatient clinic under the direct supervision of a physical therapist and upon the referral of a physician licensed in the State of Arkansas or of a physician licensed by the board~~ physician's office under the direction or consultation of a physician licensed in this state.

(2) However, the physician shall retain moral, ethical, and legal responsibility for patient care according to their specific medical license.

(c) The athletic trainer may practice athletic training in a freestanding rehabilitation clinic under the direct supervision of a physical therapist and upon the referral of a physician licensed in this state.

/s/Achor

APPROVED: 3/12/25