



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**Kevin Mullin**

DISTRICT 22



# AB 3110: Athletic Training Practice Act

## **PURPOSE**

AB 3110 creates the Athletic Training Practice Act, which licenses and regulates athletic trainers under the Athletic Trainer Licensing Committee (Committee) within the California Board of Occupational Therapy.

## **EXISTING LAW**

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professions and vocations by boards, bureaus, and other entities within the California Department of Consumer Affairs. Current law makes it a crime for a healing arts licensee to disseminate or cause to be disseminated any form of public communication containing a false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement, claim, or image for the purpose of or likely to induce the rendering of professional services or furnishing of products in connection with the professional practice or business for which he or she is licensed.

## **BACKGROUND & PROBLEM**

Athletic trainers are physical medicine and rehabilitation specialists who focus on the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries. California is the only state that does not regulate the profession of athletic training. Fifteen universities in California, including seven CSUs, have nationally accredited athletic training education programs. However, anyone can still act as an athletic trainer. Approximately 30% of individuals calling themselves athletic trainers in high schools have not completed a university level athletic training program. This puts student athletes at risk, since the mistakes of unlicensed athletic trainers can lead to serious issues.

In several states, including Utah, Texas, Hawaii, and Massachusetts, it is illegal for unregulated

athletic trainers to practice for any period of time in their state. When California athletic trainers travel to these states with their teams or companies, they risk violating those state laws because they are not regulated in California.

## **SOLUTION**

To effectively protect the public, the profession, and California employers, athletic trainers need to be licensed. AB 3110 establishes the Athletic Training Practice Act to license and regulate athletic trainers through a Committee under the California Occupational Therapy Board. The Committee will have powers similar to those of other licensing boards under the California Department of Consumer Affairs to promulgate regulations, approve training and educational programs, investigate applicants and issue licenses, and order disciplinary measures up to, and including, license suspension.

Regulating the profession of athletic training will:

- Increase safety by guaranteeing that athletic trainers are qualified to identify and treat injuries.
- Reduce liability by ensuring that employers are legally able to travel with their athletic trainers to other states in which it is illegal for unregulated athletic trainers to practice.
- Support public education by making sure that tax payer supported public education is no longer undermined by unprepared individuals calling themselves athletic trainers and taking jobs away from graduates of these programs.

## **SUPPORT**

California Athletic Trainers' Association

**STAFF CONTACT**

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