

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## ESSB 5688

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning athletic trainers.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Cleveland, Walsh and Becker).

**Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care**  
**House Committee on Health Care & Wellness**

**Background:** Athletic trainers are licensed by the Department of Health to provide:

- risk management and prevention of athletic injuries;
- recognition, evaluation, and assessment of athletic injuries;
- immediate care of athletic injuries, including through the application of first-aid and emergency procedures;
- treatment, rehabilitation, and reconditioning of athletic injuries in accordance with guidelines established with a licensed health care provider;
- treatment, rehabilitation, and reconditioning of work-related injuries, under the direct supervision of and in accordance with a plan of care for an individual worker established by a provider authorized to provide physical medicine and rehabilitation services; and
- referral of an athlete to an appropriately licensed health care provider if the athletic injury requires further definitive care or the injury or condition is outside an athletic trainer's scope of practice.

**Summary:** No person may use the title "athletic trainer," the letters "ATC" or "LAT," the terms "sports trainer," "team trainer," or any other words, abbreviations, or insignia in connection with their name to indicate or imply, directly or indirectly, they are an athletic trainer without being licensed as an athletic trainer.

A personal or fitness trainer employed by an athletic club or fitness center may not perform any of the duties of a licensed athletic trainer except performing risk management and prevention of athletic injuries through preactivity screening and evaluation, educational programs, physical conditioning and reconditioning programs, application of commercial products, use of protective equipment, promotion of healthy behaviors, and reduction of environmental risks.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

An athletic trainer may purchase, store, and administer over-the-counter medications such as hydrocortisone, fluocinonide, topical anesthetics, silver sulfadiazine, lidocaine, magnesium sulfate, zinc oxide, and other similar medications, as prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner for the practice of athletic training. An athletic trainer may not administer any medications to a student in a public or private school, but may administer over-the-counter medications to a minor in other settings with written consent from the minor's parent or guardian. An athletic trainer who has completed an anaphylaxis training program may administer an epinephrine autoinjector.

Athletic trainers must complete a one-time training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	45	1	
House	92	3	(House amended)
Senate	47	0	(Senate concurred)

**Effective:** July 28, 2019  
August 1, 2020 (Section 5)