

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESSB 5688

---

As Amended by House, April 10, 2019

**Title:** An act relating to athletic trainers.

**Brief Description:** Concerning athletic trainers.

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

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long Term Care: 2/22/19 [DPS].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed Senate: 3/09/19, 45-1.

Passed House: 4/10/19, 92-3.

**Brief Summary of Engrossed First Substitute Bill**

- Restricts the use of the term athletic trainer to licensed athletic trainers.
- Allow athletic trainers to purchase, store, and administer over-the-counter medications.
- Requires athletic trainers to complete a one-time training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5688 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Cleveland, Chair; Randall, Vice Chair; O'Ban, Ranking Member; Bailey, Becker, Conway, Dhingra, Frockt, Keiser, Rivers and Van De Wege.

**Staff:** Greg Attanasio (786-7410)

**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;

---

*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.*

- 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 of Engrossed First Substitute Bill:** 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.

An athletic trainer may purchase, store, and administer over-the-counter medications such as pain relievers, 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.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on First Substitute:** PRO: Athletic trainers are often the entry point into health care system. The bill strengthen title protection so only those licensed can use the term and makes sure that everyone identifying themselves as an athletic trainer has the proper training.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Annette Cleveland, Prime Sponsor; Jennifer Carrol, President, Washington State Athletic Trainers' Association; Dana Gunter, Washington State Athletic Trainer.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.

**EFFECT OF HOUSE AMENDMENT(S):**

- Removes modifications to the definition of "athletic trainer", which defined an "athletic trainer" as a health care professional.
- Removes pain relievers from the over-the-counter medications an athletic trainer may purchase, store, and administer.