



2019-2020 Legislation Summary

SD1076/HD2623 An Act Relative to Athletic Training

Sponsored by Senator Rush and Representative Coppinger

- This bill seeks to update practice act language that has not changed since it was enacted back in 1982. It will remove a workplace restriction on the profession. Athletic trainers in Massachusetts are restricted to work in schools, with teams, or for organizations that sponsor athletics. Athletic trainers nationwide are hired by hospitals, physical therapy clinics, law enforcement and public safety entities, the military, performing arts, and private corporations.
- This bill does **NOT** expand the scope of practice of an athletic trainer. The same skills we perform today will be the same skills we will perform after this bill passes. This bill has no cost to the state.

SD1077/HD3697 An Act Relative to Student Athlete Safety in Interscholastic Athletic Activities

Sponsored by Senator Rush and Representative Biele

- This bill seeks to align the MIAA rule for football medical coverage with the current state law. State law requires a physician or EMS to be present at games for all levels of high school football. The MIAA rule requires a physician, EMT or athletic trainer be present. Because athletic directors tend to only look at the MIAA rules, many schools with athletic trainers only have them present at games, most notably JV and Freshman level games which tend to take place on weekday afternoons.
- The bill also seeks to require schools with athletic programs to hire an athletic trainer. It does not require the school to hire a full-time employee, but would require them to have an athletic trainer hired in some capacity. That hire could be part-time, a teacher who is also an athletic trainer, or the athletic trainer could be contracted through a hospital, doctor's office or physical therapy clinic.
- Approximately 31% of secondary schools in MA do not have an athletic trainer. Student-athletes at these schools do not receive the same level of medical care as competing institutions with an AT.
- ATs save families money by providing in-house injury prevention, assessment, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.



SD282/HD2758 An Act Promoting Consumer Choice in Health Care

Sponsored by Senator Crighton and Representative Ryan

- This bill would allow individuals who are referred by their physician to a licensed athletic trainer to have the services reimbursed by their insurance carrier in the same manner they would receive reimbursement for other physical medicine and rehabilitation services.
- Athletic Trainers have been licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Allied Health Professions since 1982. Athletic Trainers receive the same state oversight as Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants, Occupational Therapists, and Occupational Therapy Assistants. However, athletic trainers are the **only** health profession overseen by this Board that Massachusetts insurance companies are refusing to reimburse for services within their scope of practice.