**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 44‑75‑20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO TERMS DEFINED IN THE ATHLETIC TRAINERS’ ACT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, SO AS TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF “ATHLETIC TRAINER”; TO AMEND SECTION 44‑75‑50, RELATING TO CERTIFICATION OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS, SO AS TO REVISE THE NAME OF THE REQUIRED EXAMINATION; TO AMEND SECTION 44‑75‑100, RELATING TO EMPLOYEES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE CONSIDERED ATHLETIC TRAINERS, SO AS TO ADD CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS; AND TO AMEND SECTION 44‑75‑120, RELATING TO PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING A PROVISION OF THE ACT, SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TO TAKE CERTAIN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS, INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF MONETARY PENALTIES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 44‑75‑20(a) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(a) ‘Athletic trainer’ means ~~a person~~ an allied health professional with specific qualifications as set forth in Section 44‑75‑50 who, upon the advice and consent of a licensed physician, carries out the practice of care, prevention, and physical rehabilitation of athletic injuries, and who, in carrying out these functions, may use physical modalities, including, but not limited to, heat, light, sound, cold, electricity, or mechanical devices related to rehabilitation and treatment.”

SECTION 2. Section 44‑75‑50 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 44‑75‑50. An applicant for an athletic trainer certification must pass the ~~National Athletic Trainers’ Association~~ Board of Certification, Inc., (BOC) examination and have met the athletic training curriculum requirements of a college or university and give proof by means of a certified transcript.”

SECTION 3. Section 44‑75‑100 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 44‑75‑100. For purposes of this chapter, a person is engaged as an athletic trainer if the person is employed on a salary or contractual basis by an educational institution, a hospital, a rehabilitation clinic, a physician’s office, an industry, a performing arts group, a professional athletic organization, the military, a governmental agency, or other bona fide ~~athletic~~ organization which employs or serves a physically active population and performs the duties of athletic trainer as a major responsibility of this employment.”

SECTION 4. Section 44‑75‑120 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 44‑75‑120. The department is authorized to suspend, deny, or revoke an athletic trainer’s certificate, and impose a civil monetary penalty, against any person for a violation of a regulation promulgated pursuant to this chapter. Any person violating the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction must be punished by a fine of not less than twenty‑five nor more than two hundred dollars.”

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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