

TITLE 5
Businesses and Professions
Athletic Trainers
SECTION 5-60-1

§ 5-60-1 Short title. – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rhode Island Athletic Trainers Chapter".

§ 5-60-2 Definitions. – As used in this chapter:

(1) "Athletic trainer" means a person with the specific qualifications established in § 5-60-10 who, upon the direction of his or her team physician and/or consulting physician, carries out the practice of athletic training to athletic injuries incurred by athletes in preparation of or participation in an athletic program being conducted by an educational institution under the jurisdiction of an interscholastic or intercollegiate governing body, a professional athletic organization, or a board sanctioned amateur athletic organization; provided, that no athlete shall receive athletic training services if classified as geriatric by the consulting physician. No athlete shall receive athletic training services if non-athletic or age-related conditions exist or develop that render the individual debilitated or non-athletic. To carry out these functions, the athletic trainer is authorized to utilize modalities such as heat, light, sound, cold, electricity, exercise, or mechanical devices related to care and reconditioning. The athletic trainer, as defined in this chapter, shall not represent himself or herself or allow an employer to represent him or her to be, any other classification of healthcare professional governed by a separate and distinct practice act. This includes billing for services outside of the athletic trainer's scope of practice, including, but not limited to services labeled as physical therapy.

(2) "Board" means the Rhode Island board of athletic trainers established under § 5-60-4.

(3) "Department of health" means the department of state under which the board of athletic trainers is listed.

(4) "Director" means the director or state official in charge of the department of health.

§ 5-60-3 Practices not authorized. – Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the practice of medicine, or any of its branches, by any person not licensed by the department of health.

§ 5-60-4 Board – Composition – Appointment, terms, oaths, and removal of members – Officers – Meetings. – (a) The director of the department of health, with the approval of the governor, shall appoint the members of the Rhode Island board of athletic trainers, which shall be composed of three (3) licensed athletic trainers and one public member and one physician licensed to practice medicine and with an interest in sports medicine. In making appointments to the board, the director shall give consideration to recommendations made by professional organizations of athletic trainers and physicians. Each appointee shall be licensed and practicing in the state, except that the director in appointing the athletic trainer members of the first board may appoint any practicing athletic trainer who possesses the qualification required by § 5-60-10. To qualify as a member, a person must be a

citizen of the United States and a resident of the state for five (5) years immediately preceding appointment.

(b) The members of the board shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years which expire on August 1 of even numbered years, except that in making the initial appointments the director shall designate one member to serve one year, two (2) members to serve two (2) years, and two (2) members to serve three (3) years. In the event of death, resignation, or removal of any member, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. The director may remove any member for cause at any time prior to the expiration of his or her term. No member shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms.

(c) Each appointee to the board shall qualify by taking the constitutional oath of office within thirty (30) days from the date of his or her appointment. On presentation of the oath, the director shall issue commissions to appointees as evidence of their authority to act as members of the board.

(d) The board shall elect from its members for a term of one year, a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary-treasurer, and may appoint committees that it considers necessary to carry out its duties. The board shall meet at least two (2) times a year. Additional meetings may be held on the call of the chairperson or at the written request of any three (3) members of the board. The quorum required for any meeting of the board shall be three (3) members. No action by the board or its members has any effect unless a quorum of the board is present.

§ 5-60-5 Board – Powers and duties. – Subject to the approval of the director, the board has the powers and duties to:

- (1) Make rules and regulations consistent with this chapter, which are necessary for the performance of its duties.
- (2) Prescribe application forms for license applicants.
- (3) Keep a complete record of all licensed athletic trainers and prepare annually a roster showing the names and addresses of all licensed athletic trainers, and make available a copy of the roster to any person requesting it on payment of a fee established by the department sufficient to cover the costs of the roster.
- (4) Keep a permanent record of all proceedings under this chapter.
- (5) Issue licenses to qualified applicants.
- (6) Conduct hearings to deny, revoke, suspend, or refuse renewal of licenses under this chapter, and issue subpoenas to compel witnesses to testify or produce evidence at the hearings.

§ 5-60-6 , 5-60-7. [Reserved.] 5-60-8 Repealed. –

§ 5-60-9 License required to use title "athletic trainer". – No person may use the title "athletic trainer" or perform the duties of an athletic trainer, unless licensed by the state of Rhode Island to perform those duties.

§ 5-60-10 Qualifications of athletic trainers. – (a) An applicant for an athletic trainer license must possess one of the following qualifications:

(1) Give proof of graduation from an accredited college or university and have met the following minimum athletic training curriculum requirements established by the board, by completing the following specific course requirements:

- (i) Human anatomy;
- (ii) Human physiology;
- (iii) Physiology of exercise;
- (iv) Applied anatomy and kinesiology;
- (v) Psychology (2 courses);
- (vi) First aid and CPR;
- (vii) Nutrition;
- (viii) Remedial exercise;
- (ix) Personal, community, and school health;
- (x) Techniques of athletic training;
- (xi) Advanced techniques of athletic training; and
- (xii) Clinical experience in accordance with national standards and as approved by the director.

(2) Show proof acceptable to the board of education and experience of equal caliber to that specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) Have passed the required examination, approved by the department.

(b) On and after January 1, 2004, an applicant for initial licensure shall be required to demonstrate:

(1) Proof of graduation from an accredited college or university and shall have met minimum athletic training requirements as established by department regulation; and

(2) Proof of having passed the required examination, approved by the department, and shall have been certified by the national certifying body recognized by the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA).

§ 5-60-11 Fees. – The fees for applicants for athletic trainer licenses are:

(1) An athletic trainer license fee of sixty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$62.50); and

(2) An athletic trainer biennial license renewal fee of sixty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$62.50). Any person allowing their license to lapse shall pay a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) late fee.

§ 5-60-12 Applications for licenses. – (a) An applicant for an athletic trainer license shall submit an application to the department on the prescribed forms and shall submit the fee listed in § 5-60-11.

(b) The applicant shall be entitled to an athletic trainer license if he or she possesses the qualifications enumerated in § 5-60-10, pays the license fee established in § 5-60-11 and has not committed an act which constitutes grounds for denial of a license under § 5-60-14.

§ 5-60-13 Expiration and renewal of licenses. – A license issued under this chapter shall expire on the thirtieth day of June of every odd-numbered year. Licenses shall be renewed according to

procedures established by the department and upon payment of the renewal fees established in § 5-60-11. Beginning with the renewal application due July 1, 2003, and every renewal year thereafter, each licensed athletic trainer who wishes to continue licensure as an athletic trainer shall present satisfactory evidence to the board that he or she has completed the continuing education requirements established by the board through regulation.

§ 5-60-14 Grounds for refusal or revocation of licenses. – The board may refuse to issue a license to an applicant or may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the license of any licensee if he or she has:

(1) Been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, the record of conviction being conclusive evidence of conviction if the department determines after investigation that the person has not been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public trust;

(2) Secured a license under this chapter by fraud or deceit; or

(3) Violated or conspired to violate this chapter or rules or regulations issued pursuant to this chapter.

§ 5-60-15 Appeals. – An appeal from any decision or order of the board may be taken by any aggrieved party in the manner provided for in the Administrative Procedures Act, chapter 35 of title 42.

§5-60-16 Repealed.

§ 5-60-17 Penalty for violations. – Any person who violates a provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor offense and upon conviction shall be punishable by a fine not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

§ 5-60-18 Receipts. – The proceeds of any fees collected pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be deposited as general revenues.

§ 5-60-19 Severability. – If any provision of this chapter, or the application of this chapter to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or application of the chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.