

## CHAPTER 323

AN ACT concerning the licensure of athletic trainers, amending P.L.1984, c.203, and repealing section 13 of P.L.1984, c.203.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 2 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.36) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:9-37.36 Definitions.

2. As used in this act:
  - a. "Advisory committee" means the Athletic Training Advisory Committee established in section 5 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.39);
  - b. "Athlete" means an individual who participates in strenuous physical exercise, physical conditioning, or a sport;
  - c. "Athletic trainer" means a person who practices athletic training;
  - d. "Athletic training" means and includes the practice of physical conditioning and reconditioning of athletes and the prevention of injuries incurred by athletes. Athletic training shall also include the application of physical treatment modalities to athletes under a plan of care designed and overseen by a physician licensed in this State, as recommended by the advisory committee and defined in regulations by the board;
  - e. "Board" means the State Board of Medical Examiners;
  - f. "Supervision" means that a physician licensed in this State is accessible to an athletic trainer, either on-site or through voice communication, during athletic training.

2. Section 3 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.37) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:9-37.37 Practice of athletic training, licensure.

3. a. No person shall practice or hold himself out as being able to practice athletic training in this State unless licensed in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.).
  - b. A licensed athletic trainer may provide athletic training only:
    - (1) (a) to athletes engaged in interscholastic, intercollegiate, or intramural athletic activities which are being conducted by an educational institution licensed in this State; or (b) to professional athletes; or
    - (2) to athletes in any setting when the athletic trainer is under the supervision of a physician licensed in this State.
  - c. An athletic trainer shall immediately refer an athlete to an appropriate health care professional licensed in this State if the athletic trainer has reasonable cause to believe that athletic training is contraindicated or symptoms or conditions are present that require services outside the scope of an athletic trainer's practice.

3. Section 5 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.39) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:9-37.39 Athletic Training Advisory Committee.

5. There is created in the Division of Consumer Affairs of the Department of Law and Public Safety, under the State Board of Medical Examiners, an Athletic Training Advisory Committee. The committee shall consist of seven members, three of whom shall be licensed athletic trainers of this State having at least five years' experience in the practice of athletic training in this State immediately prior to appointment and one of whom shall be a licensed

athletic trainer of this State having at least five years' experience in the practice of athletic training in a secondary school in this State immediately prior to appointment. One member of the advisory committee shall be a representative of the Department of Education, one member shall be a physician licensed in this State and one member shall be a representative of the general public. The members of the committee shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for terms of three years, except in making the initial appointments the Governor shall designate two members to serve three years, two members to serve two years, and two members to serve one year. In the event of death, incapacity, 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. Each member shall hold office after the expiration of the term until a successor shall be appointed and qualified. The committee shall meet at least twice a year and shall also meet upon the call of the board or Attorney General. The committee shall carry out the responsibilities assigned to it under this act and any other matter the board may require. The Attorney General shall provide the committee with facilities and personnel required for the proper conduct of its business. The board, with the approval of the Attorney General, may authorize reimbursement of the members of the committee for their actual expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties as members of the committee.

The licensure requirements of this section shall only apply to athletic trainers who are appointed to the committee after the effective date of P.L.2001, c.156.

4. Section 6 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.40) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:9-37.40 Licensure required for practice of athletic training.

6. a. Beginning on the effective date of P.L.2001, c.156, it shall be unlawful for any person, other than an athletic trainer licensed pursuant to P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) to practice athletic training in this State unless licensed in accordance with the provisions of this act. Nothing in this act, however, shall prohibit any person licensed to practice in this State under any other law from engaging in the practice for which he is licensed.

b. This act shall not prohibit: a candidate for licensure as an athletic trainer from accumulating the mandated number of hours of supervised clinical experience under the direction of a licensed athletic trainer; a student enrolled in a school or educational program of athletic training approved by the board from performing acts of athletic training incidental to the course of study, if the performance is under the direction of a licensed athletic trainer; a student in any educational program in the healing arts approved or accredited under the laws of this State from carrying out prescribed courses of study; a person employed by any agency, bureau or division of the federal government from discharging his official duties; or a person in connection with employment as an athletic trainer by a nonresident athlete, educational institution or recognized athletic organization temporarily visiting in this State, from practicing athletic training for a period not to exceed 90 days in one calendar year provided he is lawfully permitted to work as an athletic trainer in the state of residence of his employer.

c. The provisions of this act are not intended to limit the activities of persons legitimately engaged in the administration of nontherapeutic baths, massage and normal exercise.

5. Section 9 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.43) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:9-37.43 Examination for licensing as athletic trainer.

9. An applicant who complies with the qualifications for licensure shall successfully complete the examination administered by the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc., its successor organization, or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the board. The examination shall test the applicant's knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences that are pertinent to athletic training, emergency care of the injured individual and principles of injury evaluation and conditioning, including the use of various physical modalities and exercise techniques. The examination shall be administered within the State no less than once each year at a time and place the board shall designate.

6. Section 11 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.45) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:9-37.45 Licensure without examination, conditions.

11. On payment to the board of the application fee as provided in section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48), and upon approval of a written application or application for renewal, as the case may be, on forms provided by the board, the board shall issue, without examination, a license to any person who:

a. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2001, c.156).

b. Is licensed, certified or registered as an athletic trainer in any other state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, if the requirements for licensure, certification or registration were at the time of the applicant's licensure, certification or registration equivalent to or in excess of the requirements of this act at the date of application for the license as shall be determined by the board in consultation with the committee; or

c. Is employed in or is a resident of this State and presents evidence of being certified by the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc., or its successor organization, as an athletic trainer; or

d. Is licensed as an athletic trainer pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.) and makes a timely application for renewal, as determined by the board, prior to the expiration of his biennial license.

7. Section 12 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.46) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:9-37.46 License required to use certain titles, designations.

12. No person shall use the words "athletic trainer" or "licensed athletic trainer" or the letters "AT" or "LAT" unless licensed pursuant to P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.35 et seq.).

8. Section 14 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.48) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:9-37.48 Application fee, expiration, renewal of license.

14. Each initial application under this act shall be accompanied by a fee as prescribed by the board. Licensure shall expire biennially on January 31 and shall be renewed upon application and payment of a fee as prescribed by the board. If the fee is not paid by that date the license shall automatically expire. A license which has expired may, within three years of its expiration date, be renewed on payment to the board of the prescribed reinstatement fee for each year or part thereof during which the license was ineffective and a restoration fee as prescribed by the board. After the three-year period, the license may be renewed only by complying with the provisions of this act regarding initial licensure and

presenting proof of current certification by the National Athletic Trainers Association Board of Certification or its successor organization.

Repealer.

9. Section 13 of P.L.1984, c.203 (C.45:9-37.47) is repealed.

10. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after enactment.

Approved January 13, 2008.