



House Bill No. 5199

Special Act No. 24-17

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE SHORTAGE OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS IN THE STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study the shortage of athletic trainers in the state. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of methods to recruit and retain athletic trainers in the state and evaluate (1) licensure fees for athletic trainers, (2) incentives for persons with a master's degree in athletic training to work as an athletic trainer in the state, (3) workshop opportunities for high school students in the state interested in a career in athletic training, (4) undergraduate athletic training courses and programs offered by institutions of higher education in the state, (5) the funding of scholarships for college students pursuing a degree leading to a career in athletic training, (6) equity in career opportunities and salaries of athletic trainers in the state, and (7) student loan forgiveness opportunities for athletic trainers in the state.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a faculty member of a master's degree program in athletic training offered by an institution of higher education in the state,

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and one of whom shall be an athletic trainer who is employed by the State Board of Education and works at a public high school in the state;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a faculty member of a master's degree program in athletic training offered by an institution of higher education in the state, and one of whom shall be an athletic trainer who works as an independent contractor at a high school in the state;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be an athletic trainer employed by a private high school in the state;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be an athletic trainer in a nontraditional setting;

(5) Three appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be an orthopedic physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, one of whom shall be an athletic director of a high school in the state and one of whom shall be a representative of an association of athletic trainers in the state;

(6) Three appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a representative of a conference of interscholastic athletics in the state, one of whom shall be a school nurse who works at a school in the state and one of whom shall be an athletic trainer employed by an institution of higher education in the state; and

(7) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

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(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

Approved June 5, 2024