

LEGAL SERVICES

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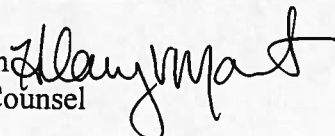
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Athletic Trainers (HB 160; Work Order No. 28-LS0423\O)

TO: Representative Steve Thompson
Attn: Brodie Anderson

FROM: Hilary Martin 
Legislative Counsel

You have asked a number of questions related to HB 160, which licenses athletic trainers. You have specifically asked questions related to personal trainers and coaches.

1) How does the language in AS 08.07.010(b), in sec. 2 of the bill, relate to physical trainers and coaches?

This language allows a person who is licensed under another chapter of Title 08 to continue that practice within the scope of that licensure, even if the person is performing functions defined as athletic training. This exemption does not apply to personal trainers or coaches, because they are not licensed under Title 08.

2) Would a coach who provides immediate care to an injured athlete during an event or training fall within the definition of "athletic training"? If a physical trainer or coach works with clients to prevent injuries, rehabilitate injuries, assess injuries, care for injuries, and make recommendations for medical treatment, is this considered "athletic training"?

AS 08.07.010, added by sec. 2 of HB 160, provides that a person may not practice or offer to practice athletic training without a license. "Athletic training" is defined in AS 08.07.090 as:

[T]he treatment of an athlete under the direction of a physician licensed under AS 08.64 to manage risk of injury and prevent injury, evaluate clinically, assess, and treat an athlete's injury or illness, and rehabilitate and recondition that athlete.

"Athlete" is defined as:

[A]n individual who participates in an organized sport or sport-related exercise or activity, including interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, semiprofessional, and professional sport activities.

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If a personal trainer or coach is engaging in activities that fit the definition of "athletic training," then those actions would be prohibited under the bill. Note, however, that the definition of athletic training requires that the athletic trainer work under the direction of a physician licensed under AS 08.64. If the personal trainer or coach is not working under the direction of a physician, then the activities would not appear to be prohibited. A personal trainer or coach would still be prevented from using the title of athletic trainer under the bill.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

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