

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:

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REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HB 160

"An Act relating to the licensing and regulation of athletic trainers"

House Bill (HB) 160 would amend current statutes to establish licensing and regulation of athletic trainers in the State of Alaska.

Athletic Trainers are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians to enhance the practice of sports medicine for patients and clients. This profession plays a significant role in the management, prevention, recognition and rehabilitation of injured athletes under the supervision of a licensed physician. Athletic trainers are a vital resource in administering injury prevention and treatment programs, as well as immediate emergency care for the sport and athletic community.

Alaska is one of the final two states that doesn't currently license athletic trainers. HB 160 will require athletic trainers to have a license to practice in the State of Alaska. HB 160 will hold athletic trainers accountable to the rigorous standards of the Board of Certification, INC; a national agency created to certify healthcare professions and assure the protection of the public. As Alaskans become increasingly more active the need for properly trained and licensed athletic trainers becomes imperative. Please support the passage of HB 160.