

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ZACK FIELDS

Fairview • South Addition • Forest Park • Downtown • North Star

Sponsor Statement: HB 336

Athletic trainers have been licensed and regulated in Alaska since 2014, when House Bill 160 was passed and signed into law. Athletic trainers are highly qualified, multi-skilled health care professionals who render service or treatment, under the direction of or in collaboration with a physician.

Athletic trainers are currently regulated by 49 states and the District of Columbia. In the past decade, the field of athletic training has continued to grow, and in many states, athletic trainers now provide their services to all kinds of patients, not just athletes.

Nationally, services provided by athletic trainers include primary care, injury & illness prevention, wellness promotion & education, emergent care, examination & clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitation of injuries & medical conditions.

House Bill 336 updates the Athletic Training Practice Act to reflect the athletic trainer profession education and skillset requirements more accurately, and removes patient accent barrier language, allowing them to offer their services to a wider range of patients, not just athletes.

Athletic trainers specialize in patient education to prevent injury and re-injury. With the pressures to our health care system in the state, Alaskans should be empowered to seek care from any qualified provider they trust.