

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE

May 10, 2024

3:17 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Jesse Sumner, Chair
Representative Justin Ruffridge, Vice Chair
Representative Mike Prax
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Stanley Wright
Representative Ashley Carrick
Representative Zack Fields

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 147(L&C)

"An Act relating to reemployment rights and benefits; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED HCS CSSB 147(L&C) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 336

"An Act relating to athletic trainers; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 147

SHORT TITLE: REEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) KAUFMAN

05/11/23	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
05/11/23	(S)	L&C, FIN
02/14/24	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/14/24	(S)	Heard & Held
02/14/24	(S)	MINUTE(L&C)
02/19/24	(S)	FIN REFERRAL REMOVED
02/21/24	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/21/24	(S)	Moved CSSB 147(L&C) Out of Committee

02/21/24 (S) MINUTE (L&C)
02/23/24 (S) L&C RPT CS 2DP 2NR TECHNICAL TITLE
CHANGE
02/23/24 (S) DP: BJORKMAN, GRAY-JACKSON
02/23/24 (S) NR: DUNBAR, MERRICK
03/06/24 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
03/06/24 (S) VERSION: CSSB 147(L&C)
03/11/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/11/24 (H) L&C
03/20/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/20/24 (H) <Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 03/22/24>
03/22/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/22/24 (H) Heard & Held
03/22/24 (H) MINUTE(L&C)
03/29/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/29/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
04/05/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/05/24 (H) -- MEETING CANCELED --
04/08/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/08/24 (H) Heard & Held
04/08/24 (H) MINUTE(L&C)
04/12/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
04/12/24 (H) Heard & Held
04/12/24 (H) MINUTE(L&C)
05/10/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 336

SHORT TITLE: ATHLETIC TRAINER SCOPE OF PRACTICE

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) FIELDS

02/20/24 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/20/24 (H) HSS, L&C
04/16/24 (H) HSS AT 3:00 PM DAVIS 106
04/16/24 (H) Moved HB 336 Out of Committee
04/16/24 (H) MINUTE(HSS)
04/17/24 (H) HSS RPT 2DP 1NR 3AM
04/17/24 (H) DP: FIELDS, MCCORMICK
04/17/24 (H) NR: PRAX
04/17/24 (H) AM: SUMNER, RUFFRIDGE, MINA
05/08/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
05/08/24 (H) <Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 05/10/24>
05/10/24 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR JAMES KAUFMAN
Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, offered introductory remarks on CSSB 147 (L&C).

LYNNE YOUNG

Alaska Athletic Training Association

Eagle River, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave invited testimony on HB 336 and answered questions from committee members.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:17:38 PM](#)

CHAIR JESSE SUMNER called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. Representatives Saddler, Prax, Carrick, Wright, Fields, Ruffridge, and Sumner were present at the call to order.

^#sb147

SB 147-REEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

[3:18:22 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the first order of business would be SENATE BILL NO. 147, "An Act relating to reemployment rights and benefits" [Before the committee was CSSB 147(L&C), as amended on 4/12/24].

[3:18:38 PM](#)

SENATOR JAMES KAUFMAN, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor of CSSB 147 (L&C), introduced himself for the record.

[3:18:47 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to rescind the committee's action on 4/12/24 in adopting Amendment 1 to CSSB 147(L&C), labeled 33-LS0799\S.1, Marx, 3/19/24, which read:

Page 4, lines 6 - 7:

Delete **"job analysis developed by the rehabilitation specialist"**

Insert **"Occupational Information Network 28.2 database published by the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration,"**

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER objected and asked for clarification as to which amendment was being rescinded.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE answered S.1.

[3:19:18 PM](#)

[Representative Saddler [removed his objection.] There being no further objection, Amendment 1 was rescinded.

[3:19:24 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:19 p.m. to 3:21 p.m.

[3:21:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to adopt Amendment 2 to CSSB 147(L&C), labeled 33-LS079\S.5, Marx, 4/18/24, which read:

Page 4, lines 6 - 7:

Delete "developed by the rehabilitation specialist"

Insert "obtained from the most recent version of the Occupational Information Network database published by the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration,"

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT objected.

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE explained that Amendment 1 was rescinded because it specifically referenced database 28.2 of the Occupational Information Network (O*NET). Amendment 2 would be less prescriptive and give rehabilitation specialists the flexibility to use the entire system.

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT asked the bill sponsor for his opinion on Amendment 2.

[3:22:15 PM](#)

SENATOR KAUFMAN shared his belief that Amendment 2 is "at the right level."

[3:22:49 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT removed his objection. There being no further objection, Amendment 2 was adopted.

[3:23:03 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to report CSSB 147(L&C), as amended, out of Committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, HCS CSSB 147 (L&C) was reported from the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee.

#

[3:23:30 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 3:23 p.m. to 3:24 p.m.

^#hb336

HB 336-ATHLETIC TRAINER SCOPE OF PRACTICE

[3:24:49 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 336, "An Act relating to athletic trainers; and providing for an effective date."

[3:24:53 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE moved to adopt the proposed Committee Substitute (CS) to HB 336, Version 33-LS1399\B, Gunther, 5/7/24, as the working document.

CHAIR SUMNER objected.

[3:25:17 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS, as prime sponsor, provided a summary of changes in the proposed CS to HB 336, "Version B" [included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Section 2: AS 08.07.030(c) adds text to clarify that athletic trainers may only treat an injury, illness, or condition that is related to or sustained by movement or athletic activity.

Section 3: AS 08.07.090(4) Amends definition of "athletic training" by adding text to clarify that the practice must be related to movement or athletic activity.

[3:25:44 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX recalled that the original version of the bill wasn't restricted to sports and included athletic activity on a job.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS said the bill seeks to solve the narrow definition of "athletic activity," which at present, does not include noncompetitive school activities, such as cross-country skiing. Consequently, athletic trainers may find themselves in an ambiguous legal area if they are providing assistance to a non-competitive student athlete.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX argued that the original version of HB 336 gave athletic trainers more flexibility.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS said the concern with the original version of the bill is that athletic trainers could be construed as physical therapists.

[3:28:11 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked for the definition of "movement."

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS deferred to Ms. Young.

[3:28:59 PM](#)

LYNNE YOUNG, Alaska Athletic Training Association, said the intent of the bill is to clarify who trainers are allowed to provide services to and protect trainers against malpractice.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked for clarification on the definition of "movement," per Version B of the bill.

MS. YOUNG clarified that the word "movement" is used in the context of the words, "within the field of athletic training." One of the biggest concerns with the current definition is that it is too broad. She added that there are safeguards in statute, as trainers always work under a licensed medical professional in Alaska.

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER asked for the definition of "athletic activity," per Version B of the bill.

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS deferred to Ms. Young.

MS. YOUNG explained that the bill would not change or expand the scope of practice for athletic trainers. Instead, the intent is to clarify, better define, and eliminate the confusion as to who can be provided athletic training services. She said [the definition of movement] helps to protect athletic trainers.

[3:36:23 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked Ms. Young whether she knew more about athletic training than he does.

MS. YOUNG answered yes.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked whether Version B makes Ms. Young happier or less happy.

MS. YOUNG said, "it does," as it would allow athletic trainers to feel safeguarded and take care of the community.

[3:36:58 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER withdrew his objection. There being no further objection, Version B was before the committee.

[3:37:59 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER sought further clarity on the definition of "movement" and "athletic activity."

REPRESENTATIVE FIELDS stated that its not necessary to figure out the difference at this time; nevertheless, physical therapists and athletic trainers will continue to come up with better ways to parse out the definitions of "movement" and "athletic activity."

REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER said he would not be able to support the bill without understanding the difference between the two terms.

[3:39:39 PM](#)

CHAIR SUMNER announced that Version B would be held over.

#

[3:39:47 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.