



ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs
**YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
Legislative Bill**

Bill # 19

Referred to Committee:
1

Authors: Lauren Haggstrom, Gavin Szalay, Brooke Hutchison, and Sophia Gugino
Genesee Valley Central School

WWW.YMCANYS.ORG/YAG

Action on the Bill

Assembly

Senate

___ ☐ Passed

___ ☐ Passed

___ ☐ Defeated

___ ☐ Defeated

AN ACT TO: Require schools to have athletic trainers at all sports events.

**The People of the State of New York, represented
in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:**

Purpose

We initiate this bill to ensure students in a district have proper medical care when necessary. Without proper care, minor injuries could become severe.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Athletic Trainer (ATs): A certified and licensed health care professional who practices sports medicine.

Law suit: a case brought to court.

Section 2: (or Section 1 if you have no definitions)

All New York State Public schools will be required to have at least one athletic trainer while any school sponsored sports are occurring.

Justification

Less than half of high schools have access to certified trainers, and twenty four percent have no medical coverage for sports games or practices. This is important, considering there are over two million sports related injuries a year, and around 15-20 a sports season. Schools with athletic trainers contract less injuries. Children and their parents should not have to worry about lack of rehabilitation after ruptures or corruptions of the body. Trainers can not only help with immediate care, but also teach valuable life lessons in their personal life and at school ex: drugs, criminal activity, alcohol...etc.

As students progress throughout their school career, they become accustomed and more open to teachers in their environment, having athletic trainers in public schools, where students spend a good portion of their childhood, can prepare them for college, where AT's are most common. That way, students already know what to expect from AT's when they reach college. Athletic trainers also offer help to students for physical guidance off season, whereas most coaches in schools are too invested in starting the next sports season to help students in between seasons.

Although most schools have insurance to cover the cost of injury related bills, lawsuits can be a costly problem for schools to deal with, especially if they lose. Many lawsuits filed against schools come from parents regarding on-ground injuries and the insurance problems that come with serious physically-related trauma. Hiring AT's can help prevent the original source of most lawsuits filed against schools. AT's can reduce the amount of incidents, and therefore reduce the amount of court cases a school has to deal with.



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Fiscal Implications

The school district would pay the athletic trainers' a minimum of forty-four thousand dollar each year and twenty-one dollars each hour. If possible, the less fortunate schools could seek a grant to pay for the AT's if this isn't an option, the district would use local tax payer's money to compensate for the ATs' salary. One reason why they should pay taxes towards the salaries is because a majority of the tax payers would be people such as parents, who would (or should) be concerned for the medical attention regarding their child. Another reason is because paying for the ATs would open up an entire branch of new occupations within one of the 1700 public school districts, which would result in growth for the economy. To figure out the extra amount taxpayers would pay for the AT's salaries, you would divide the AT's salary by the amount of the payers in the school district.

Effective Date

This bill will go in affect at the beginning of the academic school year following its passage.