

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: AB 796  
AUTHOR: Weber  
CHAPTER: Chaptered, #934  
BILL DATE: June 25, 2024, Amended  
SUBJECT: Athletic Trainers  
SPONSOR: California Athletic Trainers Association  
POSITION: Neutral

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

Establishes title protection for athletic trainers who may practice in California, as specified. The bill has no impact on the Medical Board of California (Board).

**AB 796 was not amended after the previous Board meeting.**

IMPLEMENTATION TASKS

- Report in the Board's newsletter (expected to be published in January 2025).

BACKGROUND

Athletic Trainers (AT) are not a regulated profession in this state, therefore, under current law, ATs are not authorized to practice medicine or any other licensed profession. ATs may work under the supervision of a physician as a [medical assistant](#).

ANALYSIS

According to the author's fact sheet:

"Athletic trainers are allied health care professionals that specialize in the prevention, assessment and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions, like concussions, heat illness and sudden cardiac arrest. Athletic trainers are included under the allied health professions category, as defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and are assigned National Provider Identifier numbers (NPIs). The American Medical Association also recognizes athletic training as an allied health care profession."

**Title Protection Provisions**

AB 796 states that a person shall not hold themselves out to be an AT, use the title "athletic trainer," "certified athletic trainer," "licensed athletic trainer," "registered athletic trainer," or any other term such as "AT," "ATC," "LAT," or "CAT" to imply or suggest that the person is an AT, unless they are certified by the Board of Certification for the

Athletic Trainer, or its predecessors or successors and have done either of the following:

- Graduated from a college or university after completing an athletic training education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, or its predecessors or successors.
- Completed eligibility requirements for certification by the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer, or its predecessors or successors.

Further, the bill states that someone may not use the above identified titles and terms if they have been convicted of certain sexual criminal offenses or have an athletic trainer license or registration in another state that was disciplined or restricted or has an accusation or similar document initiating disciplinary action pending against them. AB 796 also provides certain exclusions for those currently using the identified titles and terms at the time this law takes effect.

FISCAL: None.

SUPPORT: None identified.

OPPOSITION: None identified.

ATTACHMENT: [AB 796, Weber – Athletic Trainers.](#)  
Version: 9/29/24 – Chaptered