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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 176  
(1\_134\_0089-2)  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 176's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** In House Health

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Carfagna and Hall

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- The Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board will experience an administrative cost to amend any rules necessitated by the bill and possibly to regulate athletic trainers under two separate scopes of practice. Any increase is expected to be minimal.
- The State Medical Board may experience additional costs to investigate any complaints regarding collaborating physicians and podiatrists. Any increase is expected to be minimal.
- Public hospitals that employ athletic trainers, or their collaborators, may experience administrative costs to comply with any collaboration requirements. Any costs are anticipated to be minimal.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill makes changes to the practice of athletic training by allowing an athletic trainer to enter into a collaboration agreement with a physician or podiatrist. Continuing law maintains an athletic trainer must practice only on a referral from certain health care practitioners.<sup>1</sup> The bill also creates two separate scopes of practice (one for those that choose to practice under a collaboration agreement and one for those that do not), which affect the services that can be

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<sup>1</sup> Current law permits referrals from a physician, podiatrist, dentist, physical therapist, or chiropractor. The bill expands this list to include physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other athletic trainers (but only if the athletic training has already been recommended and referred by a health care professional other than an athletic trainer).

provided. If any public hospitals employ athletic trainers, or physicians or podiatrists that collaborate with them, the hospital could experience minimal administrative costs to ensure they meet any requirements under the bill. The Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers (OTPTAT) Board will need to amend existing rules, posing an administrative cost. In addition, OTPTAT could realize an increase in costs to regulate licensees under two scopes of practice. Any increase is expected to be minimal. At the end of FY 2020, the Board licensed about 3,100 athletic trainers.

The bill also authorizes the State Medical Board to take disciplinary action against a physician or podiatrist who fails to fulfill the responsibilities of a collaboration agreement entered into with an athletic trainer. This may result in an increase in the number of complaints and subsequent investigations by the Medical Board. Any increase is expected to be minimal.

## **Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes**

This synopsis of changes only includes changes made from the previous version of the bill (As Introduced) that are anticipated to have a fiscal impact. Provisions changed from the previous version of the bill that likely have no fiscal effect are not discussed.

The substitute bill (I\_134\_0089-2) allows, rather than requires, an athletic trainer to enter into a collaborative agreement with a physician or podiatrist, and creates separate scopes of practice for athletic trainers depending on whether they are part of a collaboration agreement. This change from the previous version of the bill may pose an additional cost to: the OTPTAT Board to promulgate additional rules and regulate licensees under two scopes of practice, and possibly to public hospitals that employ athletic trainers, or physicians or podiatrists that collaborate with them, to ensure they meet requirements.

The substitute bill also specifically authorizes the State Medical Board to take disciplinary action against physicians or podiatrists who entered a collaborative agreement with an athletic trainer, which could result in minimal costs.