

Responses to Survey - Board of Athletic Trainers

Total responses: 37 (of which 4 dually licensed)

Highest Compliment	Ability to monitor on behalf of licensees - 21 Ability to streamline Continuing Ed - 1 Ability to keep profession from criticism because of bad actors - 7 None - 11 Other: - Ability to protect Montanans from unlicensed and dangerous practices -- Protect licenced professionals to keep practicing.			
Biggest Complaint	Licensing fees too high - 20 Lack of Information - 1 Board's response to unlicensed practice - 12 Licensing renewal timelines too strict - Regulations too strict - None - 8 Other:-- lack of response to individuals not being prosecuted for practicing without a license			
<p>Other reasons the board is important: - I would say that the licensing board is important to me and the state as it should be monitoring the ATCs licensed and if an individual is working without a license then the duty as a board is to follow up on it, whether this means disciplinary actions (fines, loss of job,...etc). The board is not only protecting me as an athletic trainer but also the public. If there are no repercussions from the board for not being licensed then we possibly do not need a board. -- They research and foresee problems that can affect our career as a whole and set plans to correct or keep negative repercussions from impacting our jobs. The diversity of panelists allow for multifaceted insight and problem solving based on experiences and knowledge. These are things we as professionals in this field do not have time, or in some instances, the knowledge to take care of situations that arise in order to protect our profession. -- It's important for the board to view and review applications for licensure, establish rules and regulations regarding the profession of athletic training, and to monitor the professional conduct of those who are licensed by our state. - The licensing board helps to make sure that only certified athletic trainers in good standing are practicing in the state of Montana. -- Holds individuals to the credentialing that is necessary to perform the job of an athletic trainer. Makes it safer for the athletes participating that they will have a qualified individual providing them care. -- Regulates the practice of Athletic Training and provides for the safety of the public. -- Potentially limits encroachment by other professions by defining practice regulations and guidelines.</p>				
Public Health -	Public Welfare - 2	Public Safety - 13	None of these - 3	All or combination - 19
Scope of Practice:	Too Narrow - 16	Too Broad -	Just Right - 19	
<p>Problems with own or other professions' scope of practice - None with own profession = 29 Yes: Board of Physical Therapy Examiners 7 -- Comment regarding "just right" scope: It allows us as LAT's to have freedom to treat and make decisions on athletic injuries while not hampering us by always being under the watch of a Dr. or other type of professional. -- Comments regarding too narrow a scope: -- Definitions: (1) "Athlete" means a person who participates in an athletic activity that involves exercises, sports, or games requiring physical strength, agility, flexibility, range of motion, speed, or stamina and the exercises, sports, or games are of the type conducted in association with an educational institution or a professional, amateur, or recreational sports club or organization. (2) "Athletic injury" means a physical injury received by an athlete. reconditioning (instead of rehabilitation) -- Athletic Trainers are highly educated healthcare professionals who in many states treat a variety of active people in many settings from schools, to clinics, to industry to performing arts. We are the only healthcare professional with "Prevention" as part of our domains. In an ideal world we prevent all injuries, but we get to see athletes from injury all the way to return to play, often making the necessary referrals along the way. We are cost affective as we can treat many injuries onsite. -- Because the legislature had to make everyone happy, other professions had too much input into our license. -- We are restricted as to the population we can help. -- We have licensed athletic trainers who are serving as physician extenders and I'm not sure if our licensure covers their scope of practice as well as it should; I believe they have every right to work in that capacity -- The change in PT license affects my position and abilities in the clinic. -- Athletic Trainers are healthcare professionals who should be allowed to practice on all physically active individuals, not just those in educational settings or on an organized sports team. A sprain is a sprain regardless if its of the starting quarterback or a 60 year old housewife who does aerobics. -- Athletic Trainers have a competency-based knowledge base that includes various aspects of medical care that were not included in the licensure act simply to appease other parties (ie. physical therapists and nurses). I do not believe that one profession should be able to legislate the scope of practice of another as long as the first is within the scope and abilities to which they have been educated and trained.</p>				

Problems with own or other professions' scope of practice, continued -- -- **Comments regarding too narrow a scope:** -- We are trained in many aspects of rehabilitation. Because of these limitations we are unable to 3rd-party bill as a physical therapist does, even though the scope of practice between athletic trainers and physical therapists overlap. -- In other states with licensure for athletic trainers there is decision making between the physician and the athletic trainer in regards to reducing dislocations (which ones they can reduce, how many attempts at a reduction, etc). Other than this I feel it is just right.

What laws/regulations have caused the most problems? None = 3
 The one that says an athlete is considered someone part of an organized sports team or in an educational institute. Is a sprained ankle on a 50 year old person who walks her dog for fitness different than one on a 21-year-old cross country runner? -- Our fees are higher than similar professions. -- I would say the cost was the greatest hardship, eSpecially for those who's company/employer would not pay for the license. -- definition of an athlete. Also, federal law doesn't recognize Certified Athletic Trainers as providers for Medicare/Medicaid. Nationally we are currently trying to get this changed but we are in a rural state that in many places has limited access to healthcare & by not allowing qualified providers to treat the physically active places a great strain on our healthcare system. It is also poor patient care & public service. -- Athletic trainers not being able to treat some patients because certain insurances (medicare/medicaid) won't recognize us for third-party reimbursement.

Consumer complaint filed?	No = 35 Yes = Board was effective = 1 (provided an explanation) Wrote a letter to the licensee. Board not effective - 2 -- I know of someone who did report a nonlicensed ATC. The outcome was one of disappointment. To my understanding the only thing done was for this ATC to pay his dues. Even though he has been practicing without a license he had no repercussions. The board dropped the matter. If there are no repercussions I feel I should be able to just not pay my fees and wait until someone turns me in. There should be some repercussions of some sort. I would also love to know where the steps are in discipline. - - I have never filed a complaint, but know someone who did. Person who the complaint was filed against did become licensed but it was unclear what the penalty was for going 2.5 years unlicensed. Frustrating to say the least.
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Nonlicensee comments	Saying Board of Athletic Trainers Necessary for Public Health - 137, Public Safety - 90, Public Welfare - 82
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