



SPONSOR: Rep. Michael Smith & Rep. Longhurst & Rep. Heffernan  
& Sen. Poore  
Reps. Baumbach, Chukwuocha, Dukes, Gray, Hilovsky,  
Parker Selby, Ramone, Shupe, Romer

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE NO. 2  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 244

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FUNDING FOR ATHLETIC TRAINERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1           Section 1. Amend Chapter 17, Title 14 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
2     insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3           § 1727. Unit for athletic trainer and funding.

4           (a) A “unit for athletic trainer” is defined as 1 unit for each school that has athletic programs that serve students in  
5     grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. A school or district with less than 3 sports teams must submit an application to the Department of  
6     Education should it wish to receive partial funding for an athletic trainer position. The State Board of Education may  
7     review any objection to the Department’s decision.

8           (b) (1) A unit for athletic trainer shall be used to employ personnel to be paid for 10 months per year from state  
9     funds pursuant to this section at the rate of 1 per school having athletic programs serving students in grades 9 through 12.  
10    This is a unit allocation for Local Education Agencies (LEA) to provide 1 athletic trainer per school having athletic  
11    programs serving grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. A school or district with less than 3 sports teams must submit an application to  
12    the Department of Education should it wish to receive partial funding for an athletic trainer position. The State Board of  
13    Education may review any objection to the Department’s decision.

14           (2) The funds appropriated to each school district, vocational technical school district, or charter school for salaries  
15    shall be determined in accordance with the salary schedule set forth in § 1305 of this title.

16           (c) (1) Instead of a salaried employee, a school district, vocational technical school district, or charter school may  
17    choose to provide all or part of the services of an athletic trainer through a contract with a public or private agency. The  
18    contract must provide for 37.5 hours of services per school per week.

19           (2) A school or district must submit an application to the Department of Education should it wish to exercise the  
20 contractual option. The State Board of Education may review any objection to the Department's decision.

21           (d) Athletic trainer unit funding means:

22           (1) In fiscal year 2025, 1 unit for 9 schools, vocational technical schools, or charter schools having athletic  
23 programs serving grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, for employment of a full-time athletic trainer.

24           (2) In fiscal year 2026, 1 unit for 18 schools, vocational technical schools, or charter schools having athletic  
25 programs serving grades 9, 10,11, and 12, for employment of a full-time athletic trainer. A school or district with less than  
26 3 sports teams must submit an application to the Department of Education should it wish to receive partial funding for an  
27 athletic trainer position. The State Board of Education may review any objection to the Department's decision.

28           (3) In fiscal year 2027, 1 unit for all schools, vocational technical schools, or charter schools having athletic  
29 programs serving grades 9, 10,11, and 12, for employment of a full-time athletic trainer. A school or district with less than  
30 3 sports teams must submit an application to the Department of Education should it wish to receive partial funding for an  
31 athletic trainer position. The State Board of Education may review any objection to the Department's decision.

32           (4) In fiscal years 2025 and 2026, the schools to receive funding shall be selected by the Department of Education  
33 based on the schools having the highest athletic participation and shall be proportionally distributed to all 3 counties.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Act directs phased in unit funding for every school or district to have an athletic trainer. A school or district with less than 3 sports teams must submit an application to the Department of Education should it wish to receive partial funding for an athletic trainer position. The State Board of Education may review any objection to the Department's decision.