



- Three semester hours in the care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use;
- Three semester hours in coaching theory; and
- A course in theory and practice of coaching a specific sport.<sup>3</sup>

The five-year athletic coaching certification requirements also include a valid card or certificate that indicates completion of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or an equivalent course from an entity approved by the Florida Department of Health.<sup>4</sup>

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation or advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) courses, which have been accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services, are equivalent to CPR or ACLS courses conducted by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross. Any public or private entities desiring to conduct CPR or ACLS courses equivalent to those conducted by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross must have the courses accredited.<sup>5</sup>

An individual who wishes to obtain a three-year temporary certificate does not have to complete athletic coaching course work.<sup>6</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Under the bill, completion of a sports safety course counts for six hours of required district in-service instruction for athletic coaching certification, if the course is approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and meets the following requirements:

- Consists of at least 8 modules;
- Immediately provides an individual with a “merit” certificate at the time of successful completion;
- Is delivered through hands-on and online teaching methods, with hands-on course material that are less than 120 pages;
- Covers sports safety specifically, excluding coaching principles and procedures for cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- Is authored or approved by at least 10 health care professionals; and
- Is subject to revision and reviewed at least once every 30 months.

The course must be available to the general public for under \$50. The hands-on course must be taught by a health care professional who is a member of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association or a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Each course examination must be taken online and an individual must score eighty percent or better for successful completion.

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<sup>3</sup> Rule 6A-4.0282(2), F.A.C.

<sup>4</sup> Rule 6A-4.0282(3), F.A.C. and Rule 64J-1.022, F.A.C.

<sup>5</sup> Rule 6A-4.004, F.A.C.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

Completion of a sports safety course counts for six hours of required instruction for athletic coaching certification. Current rule requires nine semester hours in athletic coaching along with a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and certification in another subject. Absent a rule change, the bill would appear to eliminate three semester hours in coaching theory as a requirement for an individual that completes the approved course. The bill does not reference the course in coaching practice or cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Presumably, these requirements would remain for an individual wishing to obtain an athletic coaching certificate.

The bill does not specify if the six hours of required instruction are clock hours or semester hours. According to the Department of Education (DOE), if the hours are clock hours, the department has no way of accepting this course.<sup>7</sup> The DOE can only process by semester hours of college credit or by verification of the completion of a school district approved add-on inservice certification program. The DOE notes that only a school district can accept clock hours through inservice. The district can convert clock hours to inservice points in the add-on certification program. One clock hour equals one inservice point. The DOE also notes that only an institution can award college credit, not the department. If the sports safety course is only six clock hours, it is not equivalent to the three semester hours in the care and prevention of athletic injuries that is required under current rule.<sup>8</sup>

The DOE notes that a school district has the option to approve a commercial vendor to offer training as part of its approved add-on certification program or to accept the completion of a commercial course to satisfy part of the add-on program. A school district staff development director has the expertise to evaluate the course to determine acceptability and inservice equivalency.<sup>9</sup>

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

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<sup>7</sup> Florida Department of Education, Bill Analysis, March 23, 2009.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Absent school district payment for the course, individuals wishing to become certified as an athletic coach at a public school would incur the cost of completing an approved sports safety course. The bill caps the course fee at under \$50.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

If the school district pays for employees to take the course, the district may incur the costs. The bill caps the course fee at under \$50.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

The bill does not define the terms “merit certificate” or “health care professional.”

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS by Education Pre-K-12 on March 26, 2009:**

CS for SB 2066:

The committee substitute provides that the sport safety course counts for 6 hours of required district in-service instruction.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill’s introducer or the Florida Senate.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Florida Department of Education, Bill Analysis, March 23, 2009.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*