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H.139

Introduced by Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Branagan of Georgia,  
Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish,  
Demar of Enosburgh, Kascenska of Burke, Krasnow of South  
Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan,  
M. of Milton, Noyes of Wolcott, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of  
Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Walker of Swanton, and  
Wells of Brownington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; athletics; student health; athletic trainers

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
Agency of Education to convene a working group to study the need and  
available resources for requiring the presence of a licensed athletic trainer at all  
secondary school athletic events and practices. The working group should also  
explore how athletic trainers could be shared between districts or supervisory  
unions in a cost-effective manner.

An act relating to requiring licensed athletic trainers at secondary school  
athletic events and practices

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

3 The General Assembly finds that:

4 (1) Most secondary schools in Vermont do not employ any medical  
5 personnel outside of school hours, when most athletic practices and events take  
6 place, and injuries can occur at any time.

7 (2) In rural Vermont, where the majority of Vermont's school athletic  
8 facilities are located, emergency medical services (EMS) are spread thinly and  
9 are frequently located a considerable distance away from the location of an  
10 emergency call.

11 (3) Lack of rural cell phone coverage also impedes calling EMS to the  
12 scene of an injury occurring at a secondary school athletic event.

13 (4) Many students are without personal or family transportation to  
14 medical facilities on any given day and may delay seeking evaluation and  
15 treatment that could be rendered by a licensed athletic trainer.

16 (5) Many students lack a primary care provider due to area shortages,  
17 wait times, or family economic situation. For students of lower socioeconomic  
18 status, an athletic trainer may be one of the only accessible medical providers.  
19 Athletic trainers manage a myriad of injuries and illnesses and can make  
20 proper referrals when warranted.

1           (6) The scope of a licensed athletic trainer’s practice is codified in 26  
2           V.S.A. chapter 83. It includes emergent care, first aid, and diagnostic skills for  
3           various illnesses and injuries, such as concussion management, as well as the  
4           capacity to get to know the whole athlete, both physically and mentally,  
5           including the ability to recognize conditions such as eating disorders, anxiety,  
6           and depression.

7           (7) Athletic trainers can educate individuals about, prevent, and  
8           rehabilitate athletic-specific injuries and illnesses, which can in turn reduce the  
9           stress placed on the broader health care network, which is already pushing the  
10          limits of its capacity.

11          Sec. 2. SECONDARY SCHOOL USE OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS

12                          WORKING GROUP; REPORT

13          (a) Creation. There is created the Secondary School Use of Athletic  
14          Trainers Working Group to study the need and available resources for  
15          requiring the presence of a licensed athletic trainer at all secondary school  
16          athletic events and practices.

17          (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following  
18          members:

19                          (1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

20                          (2) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals’ Association or  
21          designee;

1           (3) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or  
2           designee;

3           (4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association  
4           or designee;

5           (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education  
6           Association or designee;

7           (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont State Athletic Directors  
8           Association or designee;

9           (7) the President of the Vermont Association of Athletic Trainers or  
10          designee; and

11          (8) one licensed athletic trainer who practices at a secondary school,  
12          appointed by the Vermont Association of Athletic Trainers.

13          (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall study the need and  
14          available resources for requiring the presence of a licensed athletic trainer at all  
15          secondary school athletic events and practices, including exploring how  
16          athletic trainers could be shared between districts or supervisory unions in a  
17          cost-effective manner.

18          (d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the assistance of the  
19          Agency of Education for the purposes of scheduling meetings and processing  
20          compensation and reimbursement pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

1       (e) Report. On or before December 1, 2025, the Working Group shall  
2       submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with  
3       its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

4       (f) Meetings.

5             (1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the  
6       Working Group to occur on or before September 1, 2025.

7             (2) The Working Group shall select a chair from among its members at  
8       the first meeting.

9             (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

10            (4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on December 31, 2025.

11       (g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Working Group  
12       who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise  
13       compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem  
14       compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010  
15       for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies  
16       appropriated to the Agency of Education.

17       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

18       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.