

HB 2678 -- ATHLETIC TRAINERS OR PHYSICAL THERAPY

SPONSOR: Stephens (128)

This bill prohibits health carriers from denying reimbursement for health care services on the basis that the services were provided by licensed athletic trainers other than physical therapists. The reimbursement may be subject to reasonable out-of-pocket costs, fee or benefit limits, or utilization reviews consistent with applicable rules adopted by the Department of Commerce and Insurance, provided that the amounts, limits, and reviews do not function to direct treatment in a way that arbitrarily discriminates against services provided by athletic trainers other than physical therapists, and are no more restrictive than those applicable to other health care providers for comparable health care services (Section 376.408).

These provisions are similar to SB 229 (2019).

The bill further specifies that no health carrier shall count visits to, or services provided by, a health care professional other than a physical therapist toward any coverage limitation specifying a maximum number of visits to, or services provided by, physical therapists (Section 376.1235).

This bill is the same as SB 916 (2020).