



# HOUSE BILL 667: Study Athletic Trainer/Health Coverage Option

2013-2014 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Insurance	<b>Date:</b>	April 22, 2015
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Hager, Dobson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Amy Jo Johnson
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Committee Counsel

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**SUMMARY:** *House Bill 667 would require the Legislative Research Commission to study whether patients should have the option of selecting their athletic trainer under their health benefit plan.*

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 58-50-30 lists the various types of health care providers from which a policy holder, insured, or beneficiary ("insured") may choose under a health benefit plan, subscriber contract, or policy of insurance ("policy"). The services must be of a nature that the policy provides coverage of, or payment or reimbursement. If the policy requires use of network providers, the insured must choose a provider of services within the network. If the policy requires use of network providers as a condition of obtaining a higher level of benefits, the insured must choose a provider of services within network in order to obtain the higher level of benefits.

G.S. 58-50-30 also lists the provider types who are able to complete a certification of disability. When a policy provides for a certification of disability that is within the scope of the enumerated providers, the insured is entitled to benefits as long as one of the listed provider types has completed the certification of disability, notwithstanding any provisions contained in the policy. The insured has the right to choose the provider of services.

The provisions of G.S. 58-50-30 are applicable to the State Health Plan pursuant to G.S. 135-48.51.

## **BILL ANALYSIS:**

H667 would require the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) to study whether to ensure that North Carolina patients have an option to choose their athletic trainer under their health benefit plans. As part of its study, the LRC must consider whether to add athletic trainers to the list of health care providers enumerated in G.S. 58-50-30. The LRC must report its finding and any proposed legislation to the 2016 Regulation Session of the 2015 General Assembly upon its convening.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law.

