CSR 16-06
Fiscal Note

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE RULE

- **Purpose:** Adjust the biennial licensing renewal fee schedule for licensed Athletic Trainers (ATs) from $80.00 to $100.00.

- **Necessity:** Stabilize structural budget deficits, align AT contributions with shared board operating expenses, and fund an upcoming online database vendor price spike as well as increases in all other expenditures such as OT, Attorney Fees and PEIA benefits for employees.

2. EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATE

- **Historical Restraint:** The Board has not implemented a renewal fee increase for Athletic Trainers since **2020**, when the profession officially transitioned from a registration structure to full medical licensure.

- **The Structural Crisis: The Board's operational expenditures exceed its incoming revenue every single year.** The agency is trapped in a structural deficit.

- **Long-Term Trend:** While the Board currently holds a healthy cash balance, it will steadily and continuously decrease over time due to the rising costs of operations and contracted services.

- **Impending Expense:** The online licensure database contract is set to spike from **$9,700 to $25,000 next August 2027**, which will further widen the gap between annual revenue and expenditures.

- **Demonstrated Decline:** Shared board cash positions dropped from **$1,020,112 (FY21) to $766,569 (FY26)**—an 8.4% cash reduction in the last fiscal year alone due to expenditures consistently outpacing incoming revenue.

National Benchmarking (WV remains lower than national averages)

- **AT Biennial Renewal:** $100 Proposed *(vs. $120–$250+ National Average Range)*.

- **Regional Context:** West Virginia’s adjusted rate remains highly competitive, and fair compared to nearby states requiring athletic training medical credentials (e.g., Ohio sits at $150, Virginia at $135).

---

3. DETAIL OF ESTIMATE (PROJECTED ANNUAL REVENUE INFLUX)

Athletic Trainers renew on a biennial (two-year) alternating loop, expiring on June 30th. Because ATs have already executed their renewals for the calendar year 2026 cycle under the legacy rates, the new revenue influx begins tracking with the 2027 expiration cohort:

- **FY 2026 Expected Influx: $0.00**
  - *AT (2026 Cohort already renewed under old rates):* $0.00
- **FY 2027 Expected Influx: +$3,500.00**
  - *AT (175 renewals expiring June 30, 2027 × $20 increase):* +$3,500.00
- **FY 2028 Expected Influx: +$1,900.00**
  - *AT (95 renewals expiring June 30, 2028 × $20 increase):* +$1,900.00
- **FY 2029 Expected Influx (Loop Repeats): +$3,500.00**
  - *AT (175 renewals expiring June 30, 2029 × $20 increase):* +$3,500.00

---

4. BIENNIAL CYCLE MECHANICS NARRATIVE

- **Cycle Loop:** Athletic Trainer credentials renew biennially on a staggered schedule ending June 30th.
- **Two-Year Cumulative Total:** Generates **$5,400.00** every 24 months.
- **Deficit Mitigation:** While the AT cohort represents a smaller licensing group under the Board, this funding ensures that Athletic Trainers proportionally contribute toward bridging the gap where annual expenditures exceed revenue. Securing this extra baseline helps slow the long-term erosion of shared cash reserves ahead of the upcoming **$15,300 annual database contract increase** arriving in August 2027 as well as other increased expenditures.

5. SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON CITIZENS/PUBLIC

- **Public Impact:** None. Consumers and the general public face zero financial impact .
- **Licensee Impact:** Minor. A $20 increase every two years represents a negligible professional cost (less than $10 per year) while successfully protecting the Board from long-term erosion and maintaining state-mandated consumer protection infrastructure.