

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Deckert, George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/1, 3/26, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes regulation of professional and amateur mixed martial arts events. Defines mixed martial arts as a combative sporting contest between two competitors who use a variety of techniques and holds. Requires licensing of competitors, managers, and promoters. Restricts mixed martial art and professional boxing matches to competitors who are at least 18 years of age. Changes the name of the Oregon State Boxing and Wrestling Commission to the Oregon State Athletic Commission. Establishes the Athletic Commission Medical Advisory Committee with five members appointed by the Superintendent of State Police. Directs the committee to recommend fitness criteria for pre- and post-fight exams, substances allowed in contestant's corner, emergency procedures, and safety equipment. Requires the committee to nominate physicians to serve as ringside doctors for boxing and mixed martial arts events. Requires assignment of medical personnel to each boxing or mixed martial arts event. Increases maximum civil penalty authority from \$2,500 to \$100,000 and requires the commission to establish by rule a method for setting civil penalties based on the severity of the violation, previous violations, and ticket sales receipts if the violation is related to an event.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Inability to regulate amateur mixed martial arts matches under current law
- Popularity of sport
- Safety concerns related to boxing and mixed martial arts
- Definition of mixed martial arts, types of fighting that would be regulated and types that would not
- Age restriction application

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Restricts mixed martial art or professional boxing matches to competitors who are at least 18 years of age. Clarifies definition of mixed martial arts. Decreases the civil penalty maximum from \$250,000 to \$100,000 and directs the commission to adopt a method for setting penalties based on number and severity of violations and event receipts if the violation is related to an event. Allows medical committee members to be appointed as ringside physicians and authorizes payment by promoters to such physicians.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Boxing and Wrestling Commission was formed 20 years ago to regulate ring sport events and it is currently a division within the Oregon State Police. The commission statutes have not been updated as combative sports have changed and are not sufficient to regulate mixed martial arts, especially amateur events. In mixed martial arts, the combatants use a combination of wrestling, boxing, and martial arts moves where the intent is to render an opponent unable to continue the match. These events are also known as ultimate fighting or cage fighting. The commission first licensed promoters of such matches in 2004 and in that year three promoters held 18 events. In 2006, nine promoters held 72 events throughout the state, from small events at armories to events at the Rose Garden with thousands of attendees. Of the 72 mixed martial arts events in 2004, only 19 were within the commission's current scope of regulation. Many promoters voluntarily comply with health and safety standards, but the commission lacks statutory authority to regulate amateur mixed martial arts events. The commission also seeks to update the level of civil penalties, which at current levels are considered too low to provide a real deterrent for large promoters and events.

4/20/2007 5:54:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.