

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Barnhart, Dallum, Girod, Lim, Riley, Witt
Nays:	Holvey
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Ellen Osoinach, Committee Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/11, 5/25, 5/30

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:

- History and role of boxing commission
- Injuries incurred by youth and others from unregulated events
- Number of different types of fights and events
- Local Eugene ordinance regarding mixed martial arts events
- Scope of which type of participant (amateur, professional) is really covered by current measure
- Reason for increase in civil penalty

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows minors to be licensed as professional boxers. Specifies that Commission rules will pre-empt local ordinances.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Boxing and Wrestling Commission was formed 20 years ago to regulate ring sport events. Combative sports have changed during that time, but the commission statutes have not been updated and do not provide adequate guidance for the regulation of 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.

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