

SB 76 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands regulation of boxing and mixed martial arts to cover "unarmed combat sports," which the bill defines. Gives certain regulatory responsibilities to the Superintendent of State Police (superintendent), rather than the Oregon State Athletic Commission (commission). Defines and allows superintendent to approve amateur athletic organizations. Creates several exemptions for events supervised by approved amateur athletic organizations. Requires event promoters to reimburse and pay medical personnel who are not employed by Department of State Police. Requires reimbursement to Oregon State Athletic Commission for medical supplies used at events. Requires promoter to reimburse and pay for licensed referees, judges, inspectors or timekeepers assigned to unarmed combat sports events. Specifies prohibited financial interest or investment by officers, board members, employees or owners of approved amateur athletic organization. Authorizes representative of superintendent to temporarily deny, revoke or suspend license for specified prohibited conduct or if applicant not qualified. Imposes \$50,000 limit to gross receipts tax per event. Eliminates \$1 per ticket fee on live professional boxing events. Exempts approved nonprofit amateur athletic organization, educational institutions' athletic program, and Oregon National Guard events from gross receipt tax. Provides conforming amendments and makes technical changes. Operative January 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: Indeterminate revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current law requires the Oregon State Athletic Commission (commission) to regulate boxing, mixed martial arts, and entertainment wrestling. The commission, which falls within the Oregon State Police, currently operates with a financial deficit. SB 76 makes changes to the current regulatory laws and its financing.

The Superintendent of State Police (superintendent) is tasked with regulating and licensing professional boxing and mixed martial arts events, participants, and officials. The superintendent has sole authority and jurisdiction to enforce these regulations and conduct investigations. Senate Bill 76 would allow an authorized representative of the superintendent to conduct these investigations. The authorized representative is also given powers to temporarily deny, revoke, or suspend licenses for specified prohibited conduct or temporarily deny an application for a license if the applicant is not qualified.

SB 76 also expands this regulatory authority to cover unarmed combat sports and eliminates the separate definitions for boxing and mixed martial arts. It further defines amateur athletic organizations and vests approval of these organizations with the superintendent. SB 76 provides several regulatory exemptions for amateur athletic organization events, such as the requirement that commission representatives be present during an unarmed combat sport event.

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SB 76 provides for specified payment and reimbursement for medical personnel that are not employees of the Department of State Police and medical supplies. Current law has been interpreted to require the commission to pay for licensed referees, judges, inspectors, and timekeepers. SB 76 specifies that payment of these personnel lies with the promoter of an unarmed combat sport event.

Oregon imposes a six percent tax on total gross receipts for boxing, mixed martial arts, or entertainment wrestling events. SB 76 expands this to cover all unarmed combat sport events. SB 76 retains the current tax rate, but imposes a \$50,000 cap per event. It would also provide an exemption of this tax for nonprofit amateur athletic organizations approved by the superintendent; events between students of educational institutions that are conducted at the school as part of the athletic program; and events between members of any troop, battery, company, or unit of the Oregon National Guard.

Oregon law prohibits members of the commission or officials from having a financial interest or investment in these events or competitors. SB 76 would also apply these prohibitions to approved amateur athletic organization owners, officers, board members, and employees. Finally, SB 76 defines several other key terms, makes technical, and conforming amendments.