

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1907

5 By: Representatives Hollowell, Tosh
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE STATE
9 ATHLETIC COMMISSION; TO EXEMPT PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING
10 FROM REGULATION BY THE STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE STATE
15 ATHLETIC COMMISSION; AND TO EXEMPT
16 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM REGULATION BY
17 THE STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-22-101(3), concerning the definition of
24 "combative sports" under the laws regarding the State Athletic Commission, is
25 amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

26 (C) "Combative sports" does not include professional
27 wrestling;
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29 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-22-201(b)(2), concerning the creation
30 and members of the State Athletic Commission, is amended to read as follows:

31 (2) One (1) of the members of the commission shall be a member
32 of ~~the state executive committee~~ of any patriotic organizations chartered by
33 authority of a special act of the United States Congress.
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35 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-22-204(a), concerning the authority of
36 the State Athletic Commission, is amended to read as follows:



1 (a)(1)(A) ~~Except as provided under subdivisions (a)(1)(B)(ii) and~~
 2 ~~(iii) of this section, the~~ The State Athletic Commission shall have the sole
 3 discretion, management, control, and jurisdiction over all combative sports
 4 matches and exhibitions in this state.

5 (B)(i) The commission shall adopt uniform policies, fees,
 6 and forms to ensure fair regulation of the combative sports industry.

7 (ii)(a) ~~However, rules promulgated by the commission~~
 8 ~~concerning surety bonds, ambulance requirements, and ringside physicians for~~
 9 ~~combative sports shall not apply to a professional wrestling event with an~~
 10 ~~audience of fewer than one thousand five hundred (1,500) spectators~~ The
 11 commission shall have no authority over professional wrestling events.

12 (b) ~~The commission may further exempt a~~
 13 ~~professional wrestling event under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this~~
 14 ~~section as it deems appropriate.~~

15 (iii)(a) ~~A professional wrestling event held for a~~
 16 ~~charitable purpose may be exempt from the uniform policies, fees, and forms~~
 17 ~~of the commission.~~

18 (b) ~~To be exempt from the uniform policies,~~
 19 ~~fees, and forms of the commission under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(iii)(a) of~~
 20 ~~this section, the promoter of the charitable event shall notify the~~
 21 ~~commission at least ten (10) days before the event is held.~~

22 (c) ~~Notice under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(iii)(b)~~
 23 ~~of this section shall include:~~

24 (1) ~~A description of the charitable~~
 25 ~~purpose;~~

26 (2) ~~The date, time, and location of the~~
 27 ~~event; and~~

28 (3) ~~An estimate of proceeds that will~~
 29 ~~result from the event.~~

30 (d) ~~The promoter of a professional wrestling~~
 31 ~~event held for a charitable purpose under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(iii)(a) of~~
 32 ~~this section shall ensure that at least twenty percent (20%) of the ticket~~
 33 ~~fees are donated to the charitable purpose.~~

34 (2) A combative sports match and exhibition declared to be
 35 amateur and self-regulated shall be governed by the commission unless
 36 sanctioned by:

1 (A) A federally recognized sanctioning body approved in
 2 writing by the commission; and

3 (B) A national oversight body with 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)
 4 status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 operating in at least six (6)
 5 states approved in writing by the commission.

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 7 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-22-306(a)(3)(D), concerning licensing
 8 fees of the State Athletic Commission, is repealed.

9 ~~(D)(i) Except as provided under subdivision (a)(3)(D)(ii) of~~
 10 ~~this section, a promoter of a professional wrestling event with an audience~~
 11 ~~of fewer than one thousand five hundred (1,500) spectators shall only be~~
 12 ~~subject to an inspection under this section one (1) time each year, and the~~
 13 ~~cost of the event inspector or investigator shall not exceed one hundred~~
 14 ~~dollars (\$100).~~

15 ~~(ii) The commission may make additional inspections upon~~
 16 ~~receipt of a formal documented complaint against the promoter under~~
 17 ~~subdivision (a)(3)(D)(i) of this section.~~

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