

Act 860 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/21/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2165

By: Representative Tosh

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-22-204(a), concerning the authority of the State Athletic Commission, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

(ii)(a) However, rules promulgated by the commission concerning surety bonds, ambulance requirements, and ringside physicians for combative sports shall not apply to a professional wrestling event with an audience of fewer than one thousand five hundred (1,500) spectators.

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

(iii)(a) A professional wrestling event held for a



charitable purpose may be exempt from the uniform policies, fees, and forms of the commission.

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

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

(1) A description of the charitable purpose;

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

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

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

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

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

(B) A national oversight body with 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code operating in at least six (6) states approved in writing by the commission.

SECTION 2. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 17-22-208(a), concerning combative sports elimination contests, is amended to read as follows:

(a) ~~This~~ Except as provided under § 17-22-204, this chapter applies to combative sports elimination contests in which:

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-22-306(a)(3), concerning fees, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) The promoter shall pay the cost of an event inspector or investigator present at the event.

(B) Except as provided under subdivision (a)(3)(D) of this section, the The cost of the event inspector or investigator shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) per day for each inspector or investigator.

(C) The commission shall:

(i) Determine if there is a need to appoint an inspector or investigator at an event;

(ii) Determine the number of inspectors or investigators to be appointed for the event; and

(iii) Notify the promoter in writing before the event of:

(a) The number of inspectors or investigators to be appointed;

(b) The cost of the inspectors or investigators; and

(c) The reasons for the appointment.

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

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

/s/Tosh

APPROVED: 04/03/2017