

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1907

By: Representatives Hollowell, Tosh

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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

## Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING THE STATE  
ATHLETIC COMMISSION; AND TO EXEMPT  
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM REGULATION BY  
THE STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-22-101(3), concerning the definition of "combative sports" under the laws regarding the State Athletic Commission, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(C) "Combative sports" does not include professional wrestling;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-22-201(b)(2), concerning the creation and members of the State Athletic Commission, is amended to read as follows:

(2) One (1) of the members of the commission shall be a member of ~~the state executive committee~~ of any patriotic organizations chartered by authority of a special act of the United States Congress.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-22-204(a), concerning the authority of the State Athletic Commission, is amended to read as follows:



(a)(1)(A) ~~Except as provided under subdivisions (a)(1)(B)(ii) and (iii) of this section, the~~ 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~~ The commission shall have no authority over professional wrestling events.

~~(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 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 operating in at least six (6) states approved in writing by the commission.

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 Arkansas Code § 17-22-306(a)(3)(D), concerning licensing fees of the State Athletic Commission, is repealed.

~~(D)(i) Except as provided under subdivision (a)(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.~~

**APPROVED: 4/11/19**