

Act 860 of the Regular Session

As Engrossed: S3/21/17

A Bill

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

HOUSE BILL 2165

4
5 By: Representative Tosh
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7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE STATE ATHLETIC
9 COMMISSION AND PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
11

12
13 **Subtitle**

14 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE STATE
15 ATHLETIC COMMISSION AND PROFESSIONAL
16 WRESTLING.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-22-204(a), concerning the authority of
22 the State Athletic Commission, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

9 (1) A description of the charitable
10 purpose;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (C) The commission shall:

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

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

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

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

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

18 (c) The reasons for the appointment.

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

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

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29 /s/Tosh

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32 **APPROVED: 04/03/2017**