

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2165

4
5 By: Representative Tosh

6 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 State Athletic Commission shall have the sole
24 discretion, management, control, and jurisdiction over all combative sports
25 matches and exhibitions in this state.

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

28 (ii)(a) However, rules promulgated by the commission
29 concerning surety bonds, ambulance requirements, and ringside physicians for
30 combative sports shall not apply to a professional wrestling event with an
31 audience of fewer than three hundred (300) spectators.

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

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



1 sanctioned by:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (C) The commission shall:

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

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

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

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

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

34 (c) The reasons for the appointment.

35 (D)(i) Except as provided under subdivision (3)(D)(ii) of
36 this section, a promoter of a professional wrestling event with an audience

1 of fewer than three hundred (300) spectators shall only be subject to an
2 inspection under this section one (1) time each year, and the cost of the
3 event inspector or investigator shall not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100).

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

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