

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Anthony R. Brown, at 1:30 p.m. on February 16, 2011, in Room 785 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Gene Suellentrop | Excused |
| Scott Schwab     | Absent  |
| Gail Finney      | Absent  |

Committee staff present:

Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Joyce Bishop, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Tom Burroughs, State Representative

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairperson Brown opened the hearing on **HB 2222, Labor organizations; persons prohibited from unionizing.**

Renae Jefferies gave the Revisor's overview of the bill (Attachment 1).

There were no proponents regarding the bill.

Alexandria Townsend, Union Representative, AFSCME Council 72, provided written only testimony as a opponent (Attachment 2).

Chairperson Brown closed the hearing on the bill.

Chairperson Brown opened the hearing on **HB 2125, Professional regulated sports act; civil penalties, violations, fees and rules and regulations**

Ken Wilke gave the Revisor's overview of the bill (Attachment 3).

Reed Holwegner gave a summary of the fiscal note regarding the bill (Attachment 4).

Representative Tom Burroughs gave testimony as a proponent on the bill (Attachment 5).

The following individuals provided written only testimony as proponents :

Sheriff Sandy Horton, Executive Director, Kansas Sheriff's Association (Attachment 6)  
Shelby Bowen, United Martial Sciences Owner (Attachment 7)  
Henry Gueary, Professional Boxing Judge (Attachment 8)

There were no opponents on the bill.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

HOUSE COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
1:30pm,  
Room 785, Docking State Office Building

**GUEST LIST**

DATE: February 16, 2011

| NAME               | REPRESENTING                          |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Merrill Befort     | Dept. of Commerce - Ks Athletic Comm. |
| Troye Blackmont    | Ks. Athletic Commission               |
| Martin Thomas      | Ks Athletic Commission                |
| Alexandra Townsend | AFSCME Council 72                     |
| Michael Solomon    | City of Goodland - Leo Jew            |
| Ty Dragon          | United Transportation Union           |
| Fernando Harms     | Teamsters # 696                       |
| ERIK SARTORIUS     | City of Overland Park                 |
| JOHN POZAR         | KCHS                                  |
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Topeka, Kansas 66612-1592  
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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
From: Renae Jefferies, Assistant Revisor  
Date: February 16, 2011  
Subject: HB 2222

HB 2222 prohibits employees of state child care centers and in-home workers providing attendant care services under the home and community based services program from unionizing. Should the bill be enacted, it would take effect upon publication book.

Testimony  
On  
**HB 2222**  
By  
**Alexandra Townsend, Union Representative AFSCME Council 72**  
February 15, 2011

The children of Kansas are our most precious resource and there is nothing more important than their education, health, safety and well being. As Kansas looks to improve the quality of child care, many issues must be addressed. However, the legislation currently before this committee does nothing to improve the quality of child care in Kansas.

HB 2222, in its attempt to prohibit child care providers the right to form, join or assist an organization of their fellow child care providers flies in the face of our very own constitution and the freedom of assembly and association.

Historically, labor organizations have sought to improve the lives of not only those who choose to organize, but also of those who the members serve. In this instance, those who are served by the child care providers are Kansas' most vulnerable and precious, our children. In an attempt to prohibit them from organizing, this bill will also make it even more difficult for providers to have their voices heard at the local and state level in terms of improving the health, safety and education of the children in their care.

In many fields, and child care is no different, allowing those who are directly involved in the field a voice and a seat at the table has allowed for drastic improvements in the quality of the product or the job being undertaken. In removing any right for child care providers to self organize for any reason, but especially those of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection, will remove the ability for child care providers not only to ensure that they themselves are protected, but more importantly it removes the ability for the provider to best protect and serve the children in their care.

Instead of putting roadblocks in the way of child care providers, Kansas should be encouraging providers to best advocate for the children in their care as well as making it possible for child care providers to have easy access to health and safety training and more educational opportunities to better provide for the children and give them the best possible foundation for a solid start in a successful and happy life. HB 2222 does nothing to assist child care providers in providing the best loving and caring educational environment outside of the child's own home.

Lastly, HB 2222 limits individual's freedom of association, a hallmark of what this country was founded on. In addition, this bill will directly and negatively affect the ability for child care providers to provide the healthiest and safest environment for the children of Kansas. I urge you to defeat HB 2222.

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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
From: Kenneth M. Wilke, Senior Assistant Revisor  
Date: February 16, 2011  
Subject: HB 2125

HB 2125 amends and updates the Kansas Regulated Sports Act, K.S.A. 74-50-181 et seq.

Section 1, pages 1-2, provides a new section which provides an additional tool for the agency in the form of civil penalty authority. A civil penalty may be issued for the violation of any provision of the act or any rule and regulation adopted thereunder. The amount would not exceed \$10,000 per violation. No civil penalty may be issued without a written order and an opportunity for a hearing under the Kansas administrative procedure act.

Section 2, page 2 amends K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 74-50,181 by updating the citation provision of the act.

Section 3, pages 2-3, amends K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 74-50,182 by adding new definitions for "amateur mixed martial arts", "grappling arts" and "pankration". Other definitions also were updated.

Section 4, pages 3-4, allows the boxing commissioner to enter into contracts for inspectors. This section also allows the commission to adopt rules and regulations

Section 5, pages 4-5, concerns the supervision of regulated sports in this state. The main amendment concerns a fee, not to exceed 2%, to be assessed on gross revenues received by a promoter or a media network that broadcast a regulated sports contest.

Section 6, pages 5-6, concerns the types of rules and regulations which may be adopted by the commission.

Section 7, pages 6-7, concerns the issuance of licenses when a local license must be obtained from a city or county.

Section 8, pages 7-10, concerns the complaint process and violations of the act. Subsection (c) establishes grounds for the denial, suspension, revocation or refusal to renew a license. Subsection (d) requires that actions require an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act (KAPA).

Section 9, on page 10 contains a technical change.

If enacted, this bill would become effective upon publication in the Kansas Register.



February 15, 2011

The Honorable Anthony Brown, Chairperson  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Statehouse, Room 151-S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Brown:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2125 by House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2125 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2125 would allow the Athletic Commission, which is operated by the Department of Commerce, to issue fines of up to \$10,000 for violations of any rules and regulations authorized under the Kansas Regulated Sports Act. The bill creates a procedure for collecting fines and sets up a formal appeals process. The Boxing Commissioner would not be allowed to perform the duties of an Inspector and the Athletic Commission would now be allowed to appoint a Chief Inspector. The bill would eliminate language that refers to the "tax imposed" on the gross receipts of every regulated sports event and would replace it with "fee assessed." The bill would allow the Athletic Commission to collect a fee of up to 2.0 percent of the gross revenues received by a promoter and by any media network that televises a regulated sports contest held, including, but not limited to, pay-per-view or internet broadcasts. The fees would be used to pay for the costs of administering and enforcing the requirements of the Kansas Regulated Sports Act.

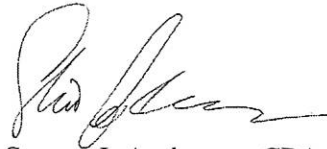
The bill would allow the Athletic Commission to regulate amateur mixed martial arts events. New definitions are provided in the bill for amateur mixed martial arts, grappling, noncompetitive sparring, and pankration, and updates existing definitions for professional full-contact karate, professional kickboxing, professional mixed martial arts, professional wrestling, and sparring. The bill would take effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

| Estimated State Fiscal Effect |                |                      |                |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
|                               | FY 2011<br>SGF | FY 2011<br>All Funds | FY 2012<br>SGF | FY 2012<br>All Funds |
| Revenue                       | --             | \$5,000              | --             | \$25,000             |
| Expenditure                   | --             | --                   | --             | --                   |
| FTE Pos.                      | --             | --                   | --             | --                   |

The Department of Commerce indicates that HB 2125 would generate approximately \$5,000 in additional license fee revenue to the Athletic Fee Fund from the regulation of approximately ten amateur adult mixed martial arts events in FY 2011. The Department estimates that the Athletic Commission will regulate an additional 50 events in FY 2012 which will generate approximately \$25,000 to the Athletic Fee Fund. The Department indicates that the number of events have grown in the last few years and are estimated to continue to grow in the future. The Department of Commerce is unable to estimate the number of regulated events that the Athletic Commission would be able to collect the pay-per-view or internet broadcast fee of up to 2.0 percent; therefore, a precise estimate of this revenue source cannot be estimated.

In previous years, the revenue generated to the Athletic Fee Fund has not fully supported the operations on the Athletic Commission and the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) has been used to subsidize the operations of the Athletic Commission. The amount of the EDIF subsidy varies from year to year depending on the amount of revenue that is deposited to the Athletic Fee Fund. The Department indicates that passage of the bill would provide revenue for the operation of the Athletic Commission to be closer to program expenditures. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2125 is not reflected in *The FY 2012 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA  
Director of the Budget

cc: Traci Herrick, Commerce  
Melissa Wangemann, Kansas Association of Counties  
Larry Baer, League of Municipalities



STATE OF KANSAS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**TOM BURROUGHS**

REPRESENTATIVE, THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT  
WYANDOTTE COUNTY  
3131 S. 73RD TERRACE  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66106  
(913) 375-1956

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TOPEKA

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

RANKING DEMOCRAT: GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET  
COMMITTEE

MEMBER: FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE  
INSURANCE COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET  
LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT  
JT COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL  
RELATIONS  
KANSAS ATHLETIC COMMISSION

TESTIMONY

HB 2125

CHAIRMAN BROWN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BRING BEFORE YOU TODAY HB 2125 WHICH AMENDS THE KANSAS PROFESSIONAL REGULATED SPORTS ACT.

A LITTLE HISTORY; IN JUNE 1980 THE LEGISLATURE ABOLISHED THE FORMER KANSAS ATHLETIC COMMISSION. THE MAIN REASON GIVEN BY LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT WAS "SO FEW PROFESSIONAL BOXING MATCHES IN KANSAS (17 EVENTS DURING 1978). IN ADDITION, ADMISSION TAX RECEIPTS FOR BOXING COULD NOT SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF A REGULATORY AGENCY." HOWEVER, THE AUDIT CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS A DEFINITE NEED FOR SOME TYPE OF REGULATION. IN 2006, WE ESTABLISHED A COMMISSION WITH OVERWHELMING LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT AND BELIEVE THAT THE AMENDMENTS IN THIS BILL WILL ALLOW IT TO REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL.

THE KANSAS ATHLETIC COMMISSION IS CONTINUALLY CHALLENGED TO MEET INDUSTRY EXPANSION. THE PROPOSED PROVISIONS WILL COMPLIMENT AND STRENGTHEN KANSAS'S BOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS AND BETTER PREPARE IT TO COMPETE FOR BIG NAME EVENTS SUCH AS A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS TO THE KANSAS PROFESSIONAL REGULATED SPORTS ACT IDENTIFY AND DIFFERENTIATE TYPES OF COMPETITIVE EVENTS (MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, GRAPPLING ARTS, PANKRATION), PROVIDE FOR MORE LOCAL CONTROL, BETTER DEFINE AND REGULATE AMATEURS, ESTABLISH A MEDIA FEE, AND INSTITUTE PENALTY PROVISIONS.

AS THE INDUSTRY OF PUGILISM HAS EVOLVED, IT IS NO LONGER JUST A MAN'S SPORT. THE DISCIPLINES ARE AS DIVERSE AS THE PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO ITS GROWTH IN POPULARITY. THE PROLIFERATION OF SPORTS NETWORKS HAS PROVIDED FOR NEW REVENUE, MARKETING AND ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES AS THE NUMBER OF VENUES AND EVENTS HAS INCREASED ACROSS THE STATE.

I SUBMIT TO YOU THAT KANSAS HAS A RICH BOXING HISTORY AND HAS TRULY EMBRACED AND BENEFITED FROM MIXED MARTIAL ARTS. THE PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS STRENGTHEN THE KANSAS PROFESSIONAL REGULATED SPORTS ACT AND IN TURN BETTER ALLOW IT TO SERVE, PROTECT, AND REGULATE BOTH PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS.

ON BEHALF OF THE KANSAS ATHLETIC COMMISSION, I ASK FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND FAVORABLE PASSAGE OF HB 2125. THANK YOU! I WILL STAND FOR QUESTIONS.

## **Kansas Athletic Commission Report**

**To the Committee on Commerce  
And Economic Development  
February 10, 2011, 1:30 at the  
Docking State Building Room 785**

Introduction: Rep. Tom Burroughs

### **The Commission**

I would like to thank Chairperson Rep. Anthony Brown and the Committee on Commerce Economic Development for giving me the opportunity to speak to you about HB2125 the activities of the Kansas Athletic Commissions.

The Kansas Athletic Commission is comprised of five commissioners: Chair Dr. Mark Balderston of Shawnee Mission, Vice-Chair Dan Pratt of Bonner Springs, Ronald Holt of Wichita Dr. Todd Herrenbruck of Salina, and Rep. Tom Burroughs of Kansas City, Kansas.

Our Mission Statement reads:

### **Mission Statement**

The Kansas State Athletic Commission shall work toward making Kansas a model state for the welfare of boxers, kick boxers, wrestlers, and martial artists. We shall continually strive to provide authorized control and official direction of professional boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, and martial art contests conducted and exhibited within Kansas. We shall encourage promoting these sporting events to the State of Kansas while continuing to heighten public awareness regarding these athletic competitions.

Our Vision Statement says:

### **Vision Statement**

The Kansas State Athletic Commission fosters a sound and safe environment in which the sports of boxing kickboxing, wrestling and martial arts can thrive. The Boxing Commissioner and the Kansas Athletic Commission regulate and facilitate high quality competitive sporting events while striving to protect the health and welfare of all participants and spectators.

Which we adhere to with every decision the KAC makes.

## Event History

FY 07: 35 total sanctioned events.

FY 08: 53 total sanctioned events.

FY 09: 35 total sanctioned events.

FY 10: 35 total sanctioned events

From March 15th thru April 30: **Total of 78 sanctioned events.**

**Boxing:** 12 sanctioned events

**Mixed martial arts:** 43 sanctioned events

**Wrestling:** 16 sanctioned events

**Kickboxing:** 2

**BJJ / Grappling:** 5

### Total for FY10

|                                                               |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| COMBINED TOTAL PERMIT/INSP.FEES & DOOR TAX                    | \$ 62,600.66 |
| MINUS 20% TO SGF                                              | \$ 12,520.13 |
| DEPOSITED TO BOXING FEE FUND FROM PERMIT/INSP FEES & DOOR TAX | \$ 50,080.53 |
| TOTAL FROM LICENSE FEES                                       | \$ -         |
| MINUS 20% TO SGF                                              | \$ -         |
| DEPOSITED TO BOXING FEE FUND FROM LICENSE FEES                | \$ -         |
| STATE GENERAL FUND - GRAND TOTAL                              | \$ 12,520.13 |
| BOXING FEE FUND - GRAND TOTAL                                 | \$ 50,080.53 |

### FY11 (July 1st to Feb 10th)

|                                                               |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| COMBINED TOTAL PERMIT/INSP.FEES & DOOR TAX                    | \$ 47,489.40 |
| MINUS 20% TO SGF                                              | \$ 9,497.88  |
| DEPOSITED TO BOXING FEE FUND FROM PERMIT/INSP FEES & DOOR TAX | \$ 37,991.52 |
| TOTAL FROM LICENSE FEES                                       | \$ 25,575.00 |
| MINUS 20% TO SGF                                              | \$ 5,115.00  |
| DEPOSITED TO BOXING FEE FUND FROM LICENSE FEES                | \$ 20,460.00 |
| STATE GENERAL FUND - GRAND TOTAL                              | \$ 14,612.88 |
| BOXING FEE FUND - GRAND TOTAL                                 | \$ 58,451.52 |

## *Pay Per View Figures*

Minimum pay per view price - \$29.99

Maximum pay per view price - \$44.99

Pay per view buys – 100,000

@ \$29.99 Totals: \$2,999,000

@ \$44.99 Totals: \$4,499,000

Athletic Fee of 2% for first 1 million buys.

(all states are 2% or higher)

Kansas Athletic Commission receives: \$59,980.00  
(@\$29.99)

Kansas Athletic Commission receives: \$89,000.00  
(@\$44.99)

+ 5% of the gate.



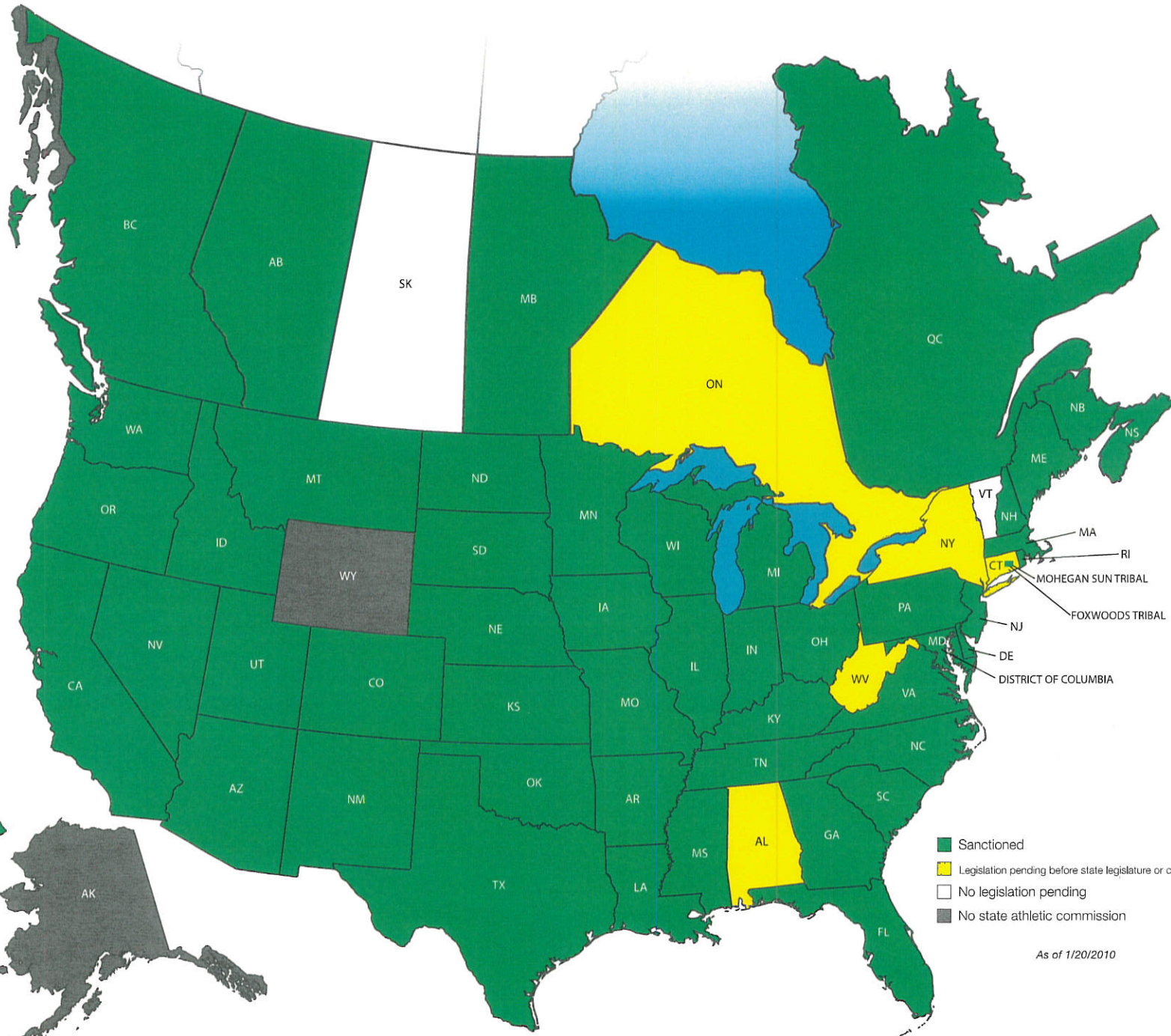
# MIXED MARTIAL ARTS REGULATION IN NORTH AMERICA

House Commerce & Economic  
Development Committee

Date: 2/16/11

Attachment #: 5-6

House Commerce & Economic Development



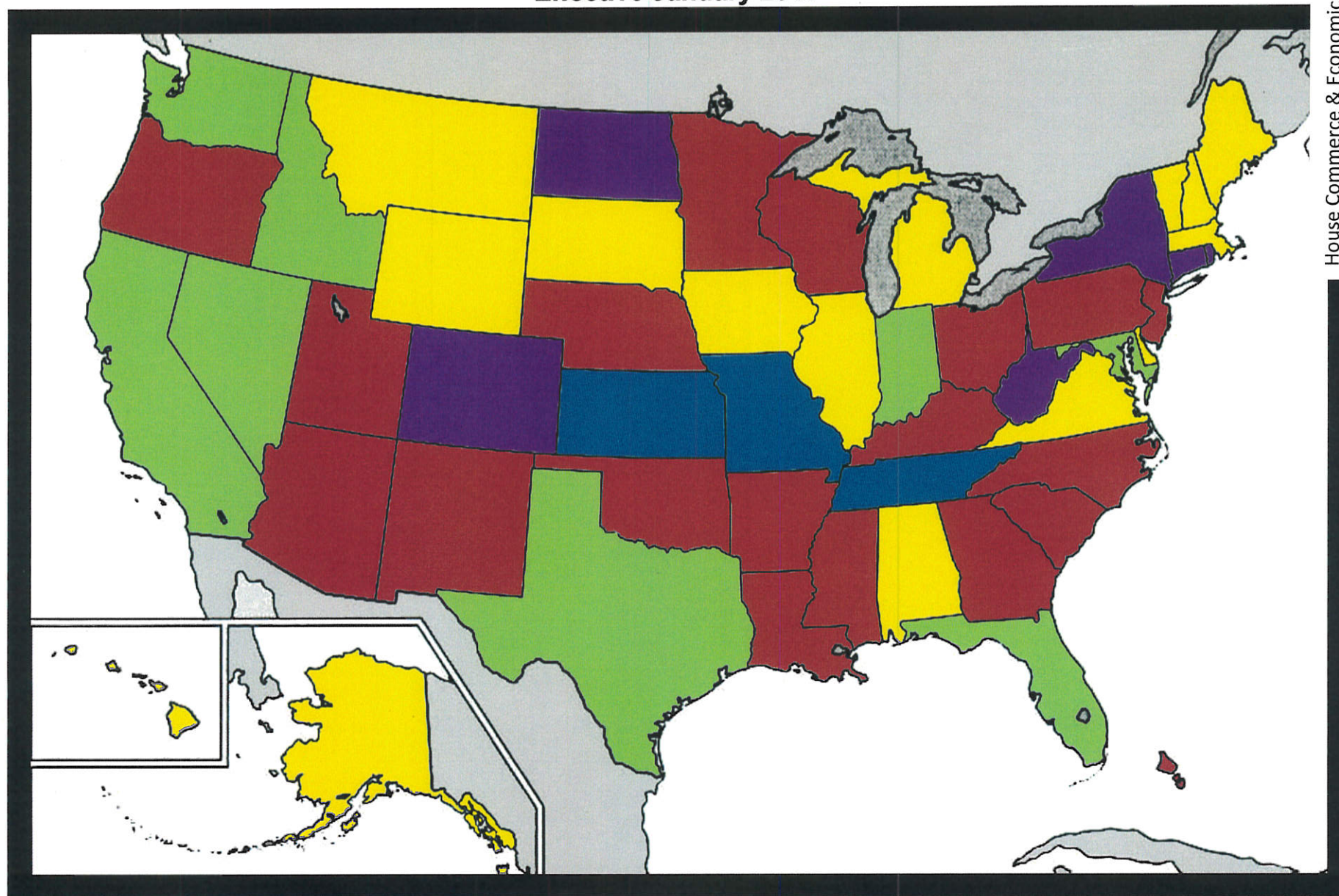
- Sanctioned
- Legislation pending before state legislature or commission
- No legislation pending
- No state athletic commission

As of 1/20/2010



# Amateur Mixed Martial Arts Regulation

Effective January 2011



- AMMA regulated by State Athletic Commission
- AMMA regulated by State Athletic Commission through Amateur Sanctioning Group

- AMMA is illegal
- AMMA is legal, but unregulated

- AMMA is regulated by Amateur Sanctioning Group only

\* Georgia - Commission regulates PRO/AM events. Sanctioning body regulates only amateur events.

House Commerce & Economic  
Development Committee  
Date: 2/16/11  
Attachment #: 5-7

House Commerce & Economic Developer  
Committee  
Date: 2/16/11  
Attachment #: 5-7

## Iowa Takes Steps Towards Regulating Amateur MMA

Posted on February 10, 2010 by David Nelmark

Amateur mixed martial arts matches are currently legal in Iowa, but they are not regulated. A bill that has just been forwarded to the floor of the Iowa Senate would change that, putting amateur MMA under the auspices of the Athletic Commissioner (just like professional events).

On February 9, Senate Study Bill 3192 was unanimously approved by the Senate's Labor and Business Relations Committee. The bill, which revises the existing Iowa Code Chapter governing boxing and professional wrestling events will now go to a vote by the full Iowa Senate, likely within the next 12 weeks.

As reported by Tony Leys of the Des Moines Register, proponents of the bill are concerned with several injuries that have occurred in amateur MMA events in Iowa. Although the article's discussion of the terrible injury to Nebraska fighter Zach Kirk is not entirely accurate, there is no question that allowing fighters to compete without pre-fight medical examinations and without appropriate medical staff on site is a dangerous combination.

The bill does more than just impose safety regulations on fighters and promoters, however.

The bill's other provisions include a new minimum age limit of 21 for participation in an amateur or professional MMA event.

This is a departure from amateur boxing, where Iowa defers to the rules of USA Boxing, which has a junior olympic program for contestants as young as 8 years old.

In addition to opposing the new age limit, some critics of the bill say the medical testing regulations are too stringent. As an example, some promoters believe that amateur MMA will cease to exist if unpaid fighters are forced to foot the bill for pre-fight blood tests, which typically cost at least \$99.

As professional MMA is well on its way to becoming legal in nearly every state, I believe regulation of amateur MMA is the next big legal issue for the industry.



## **Indiana playing catch-up in regulating MMA**

By Maureen Hayden CNHI Statehouse Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS — Andy Means was on the job when he spent a recent Friday night in a saloon, watching men in a cage engage in unarmed combat.

He was there as Indiana's designated regulator of a spectator sport better known as mixed martial arts.

His job: To make sure the people paid to fight are protected by new state rules governing what promoters say is the fastest growing sport in the nation.

"You're talking about the safety of human beings here," said Means, interim director of the Indiana Athletic Commission. "It can be a dangerous sport if it's not regulated right."

In April, the commission adopted a set of emergency rules governing professional "unarmed combat" competition, defined by the state as a sport that combines the martial arts techniques of "grappling, kicking and striking" into a single style of fighting.

The April rules revised those in place since October 2009, which licensed professional fights and put into place on-site physical exams, blood tests and drug testing.

The rules are part of an evolving effort in Indiana to bring laws and legitimacy to what has become a venue for serious athletes and a big money-maker. The sport now out-grosses professional boxing in pay-per-view revenue.

Indiana is one of the last states in the nation to put rules in place for competition that was once illegal but widespread. The current rules only cover professional competition, but regulation of amateur bouts is in the works.

Some of the most vocal proponents of the new rules are promoters and fighters eager to alter the violent public image of the sport.

"We've gone beyond the archaic form of fighting that was little more than beating your brains out," said promoter Dave McDaniel, vice president of Premier Cage Fighting, whose competitions are broadcast by Comcast on Demand on cable TV and staged at large venues, including the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

"It's changed in the last 10 years," McDaniel said. "The notion that our fighters are guys who spend their nights in a bar looking for a fight isn't true anymore."

McDaniel and his partner, Aaron Sullivan, are police officers. One of their best fighters, Chris Lytle, is a firefighter.

Lytle, 35, is a former high school wrestler who took up martial arts after college to keep in

shape. "This is a sport just like baseball, football or boxing," he said. "You don't have to be a Neanderthal to do it."

He credits regulation for cleaning up the sport, and says Indiana's previous lack of rules had attracted a dubious crowd of fight promoters.

"It was like the Wild West here," Lytle said. "We had promoters coming in who knew they could do whatever they wanted."

He fears they still can in amateur competitions, absent regulations that would ban the no-holds-barred style of fighting that has long marked the sport and lead to its marketing of extreme violence.

"Without those rules in place at the amateur level, it's almost the most dangerous sport there is," Lytle said.

Regulation of amateur competition is expected to come late this summer, after the Indiana Athletic Commission is formally dissolved and then re-created as a division of the Indiana Gaming Commission, which has more than a decade of regulatory experience in the gambling industry.

Already, regulation of professional bouts has significantly diminished the number of competitions scheduled for this summer. The commission staff attributes the decrease to promoters unwilling to meet what the commission considers the "minimum safety standards" they've put into place.

Lytle and McDaniel concur.

"Probably 60 to 70 percent of the promoters who'd been operating in Indiana have dropped out since the rules went into effect," McDaniel said. "That's OK. It helps us get rid of the bad apples."

# MMA REGULATION HEADS TOWARD REALITY IN ALABAMA

Posted on February 12, 2010 by MMAWeekly.com Staff

by Ken Pishna – MMAWeekly.com

Are you paying attention New York?

Just one week after Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle signed mixed martial arts regulation into law, the vice chair of the Alabama Boxing Commission, Casey Sears, told MMAWeekly.com that the Cotton State is ready to usher in its own sanctioning.

Alabama House Bill HB457 was recently voted out of the Travel and Tourism Committee. The bill, if signed into law, would give the Alabama commission, under a new name, authority over mixed martial arts in the state.

The bill, according to Sears, would make the following changes:

- Change the name from "Alabama Boxing Commission" to "Alabama Athletic Commission"
- Provide the state the authority to sanction and approve professional mixed martial arts in the state in the same fashion as professional boxing.
- Provide authority to the commission to approve any amateur sanctioning organization for mixed martial arts operating in the state.
- The bill will provide standards for promoters and safeguards for fighters

## **Hawaii OKs regulating amateur mixed martial arts**

HONOLULU

Amateur mixed martial arts will be regulated in Hawaii under a measure that has been approved by the Legislature.

The bill requires the state Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to regulate the sport, and may delegate the control and supervision of amateur contests to a recognized national association.

It also mandates that amateur mixed martial artists be at least 18 years old and to pass a physical examination by a licensed physician prior to engaging in a fighting contest.

The House and Senate passed the measure Tuesday, sending it to Gov. Linda Lingle's desk.

# Massachusetts State Athletic Commission Sanctions Amateur MMA

By:

Peter Lampasona



The Massachusetts State Athletic Commission announced today that it will be directly regulating all amateur mixed martial arts events within the state. As with most states, Massachusetts' first set of regulations for MMA only applied at the professional level. The absence of legislation regarding amateur rules leaves the regulation of amateur mixed martial arts within a state to an outside organization. In the case of Massachusetts, sanctioning of amateur events was previously handled by KICK International.

The Massachusetts SAC decision to directly regulate amateur MMA is a huge step forward in the effort to build local talent from the ground up. The efforts of organizations like KICK throughout the country notwithstanding, state athletic commissions have more resources for record keeping, medical support, and other aspects required of a sanctioning body to create a thriving amateur scene.

With the new system of sanctioning, a number of procedural and rule changes will be enacted on amateur MMA in Massachusetts. Among the most notable changes to the amateur rules after the Massachusetts SAC takeover will be to the amateur weight classes. The new weight classes are as follows:

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Flyweight          | Up to 125 pounds       |
| Bantamweight       | Over 125 to 135 pounds |
| Featherweight      | Over 135 to 145 pounds |
| Lightweight        | Over 145 to 155 pounds |
| Welterweight       | Over 155 to 170 pounds |
| Middleweight       | Over 170 to 185 pounds |
| Light Heavyweight  | Over 185 to 205 pounds |
| Middle Heavyweight | Over 205 to 225 pounds |

Heavyweight      Over 225 to 265 pounds

Super Heavyweight   All over 265 pounds

The new weight classes are similar to those in professional MMA and are spaced farther apart on the scale than amateur weight classes in other states that are directly regulated by their state athletic commissions.

New Jersey became one of the first SACs to directly regulate their amateur mixed martial arts, and have since had great success with a thriving amateur circuit.



## Kansas Sheriffs Association

PO Box 1122, Pittsburg, KS 66762

Phone: (620)230-0864

Fax: (620)230-0866

E-mail: ksa@mobill.net

Sheriff Sandy Horton, Executive Director

February 10, 2011

REF: Support for HB2125

Chairman Brown, Vice Chairman Suellentrop, and distinguished members of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development:

The Kansas Sheriff's Association is supportive of HB 2125 and believes it is sound public policy to provide oversight and regulation to amateur and professional mixed martial arts, grappling arts, and kickboxing contests. Furthermore, the most qualified organization to administer the regulations is the Kansas athletic commission.

The growing popularity of mix martial arts alone warrants the development of appropriate rules, and regulations, to ensure safeguards are in place for the participants and the integrity of the contests remains intact. HB 2125 provides the Kansas athletic commission with the statutory authority to license, suspend, or discipline contestants or promoters who refuse to comply with the standards set forth.

In conclusion, The Kansas Sheriff's Association encourages the members of the committee to vote favorably on HB2125 and forward the bill to the House for further consideration.

Shelby Bowen, MSN, ARNP, RN, CCRN  
United Martial Sciences, Owner  
3927 SW Atwood Ave  
Topeka, KS 66610  
785-220-8961

February 16, 2011

Troye Blackmon  
Kansas Boxing Commissioner  
1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 100  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1354  
Phone:(785) 296-6321

Dear Mr. Blackmon:

I am writing in support of House Bill 2125. As the owner of a mixed martial arts school I feel that the proposed bill is in the best interest of amateur fighters' health and well being.

HB 2125 will help to ensure that all fighters are of legal age, are in good health to compete, allow for medical attention if needed during events, and provide safety to the audience attending events. As an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner it is important to me to protect the health and safety of all fighters no matter their experience level. The Athletic Commissioner available at all events will protect the fighters and assist the promoters in having the fighters' health and safety as the number one priority associated with competition.

I think that this is an important bill. It will benefit the MMA community at large by assisting in maintaining the honesty and integrity that most MMA fighters and promoters share. Mixed martial arts, combining styles like boxing, wrestling, muay thai and jiu jitsu, was once deemed too vicious for decent society. The sport has now modified its rules/regulations and is becoming one of the fastest growing sports in America. This past fall, a fight was watched on TV by more people in the nation than the Major League Baseball playoff game that same night. If competitions are left unregulated I fear that this incredible sport would revert back to a time when it was unsafe for participants and no longer practiced. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Shelby Bowen, MSN, ARNP, RN, CCRN  
United Martial Sciences



Good Afternoon,

I would first like to thank Committee Chairman Brown, Vice Chair Suellentrop, Ranking Minority Member Slattery and all other distinguished members of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development for holding this hearing.

From its founding 150 years ago, Kansas has long been known for its pioneering spirit and fierce independent determination. Despite early struggles to define what would become the character of our great state, 150 years later, we hold true to the idea that Kansas offers every individual within its borders the opportunity to pursue happiness and prosperity. This did not come easily as our storied history included the need to tame what was once considered the wild-west. The imposition of laws designed to drive out those unable or unwilling to adhere to acceptable public norms gave Kansas a platform to show its ability to transform itself into what is now considered a central force in the American economic engine.

My name is Henry Gueary. I am a Judge for professional boxing and amateur and professional mixed martial arts. I am licensed in Kansas and Missouri and have officiated at more than 830 individual bouts in the past 4 years. I have received training through the Association of Boxing Commissions as well as the Kansas Boxing Commission.

Today, I am here in support of HB 2125 introduced by Representative Burroughs on behalf of Kansas Athletic Commission, Commissioner Troye Blackmon and the Kansas Department of Commerce.

I would like to thank Committee Chairman, Representative Anthony Brown, Vice Chairman, Representative Gene Suellentrop, Ranking Minority Member, Mike Slattery and Honorable members of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development for holding this hearing on HB 2125.

HB 2125 is an effort to close loopholes in current law to provide consistency in the application of rules and regulations related to professional boxing and adult amateur and professional mixed martial arts in Kansas.

### **Safety and Regulation**

As the Kansas Athletic Commission motto is, "We shall strive to protect the health and welfare of all participants and spectators", granting the authority to regulate amateur mixed martial arts is an effort in the furtherance of commission duties. It should be clearly understood that amateur mixed martial arts is an adults only sport. Participants must be 18 years or older to engage in this activity. However, Kansas is one of the few states that does not directly regulate amateur Mixed Martial Arts. Without regulatory oversight, promoters of amateur events are not required to provide the same level of safety and adherence to rules as currently required under law.

The early days of the sport were much like the wild west in that there were few controls placed on promoters or fighters. As the sport has matured over several years key rules, enforcement measures and safety regulations have been instituted that reduce the potential for injury to participants. A John's Hopkins study <sup>(1)</sup> conducted in 2006, shows that these new measures significantly reduce the occurrence of injury in mixed martial arts bouts to the point that it is safer than boxing, football and other contact sports.

In 2009, the Association of Boxing Commissions <sup>(2)</sup> established the Unified Rules for Mixed Martial Arts. These rules govern every aspect of the sport and are designed to control the way in which Mixed Martial Arts matches are to be conducted.

Regulating the sport more closely reduces the potential for injury, improves the fan experience which increases box office receipts and raises the potential for Kansas to attract larger shows and generate revenues from gate and pay-per-view receipts.

### **Economic Development**

According to a recent CBS 60 Minutes report <sup>(3)</sup>, Mixed Martial Arts is one of the fastest growing spectator sports in the world. The UFC, (which Kansas has the ability to attract), host events with television revenues (pay-per-view) averaging 10-20 million dollars per event. Kansas area promoters such as Joe Kelly, with Titan Entertainment, are working hard to attract similar national and international interest and have successfully produced events on Showtime, HDnet, M1 Challenger series and more.

With 4 state owned casino's soon to be developed, HB 2125 provides Kansas the unique opportunity to position itself to tap into a growing market to siphon off a portion of those TV revenues. This is a revenue stream with unlimited potential for the state. HB 2125 allows the Kansas Athletic Commission to collect 5% of gate revenues and 2% of TV revenues. Notwithstanding the 5% local gate collections, a 10 million dollar (UFC) pay-per-view event hosted in Kansas could conservatively net the state an estimated \$200,000 for a single event.

### **Conclusion**

HB 2125 provides the Kansas Athletic Commission the ability to regulate combat sports in Kansas to safeguard the health and welfare of participants while providing enhanced fan experience and revenue generation. HB 2125 is a model of regulation with a mind to the future of sports regulation that can be emulated by other states. As Kansas is a training ground for several athletes who have entered the national and international stage to showcase their talents, our state is poised to benefit from their exposure.

Again I would like to thank the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development for holding this hearing on HB 2125.

### **References**

<sup>(1)</sup>2006 John's Hopkins Medical Report on Mixed Martial Arts

<http://www.jssm.org/combat/1/18/v5combat-18.pdf>

<sup>(2)</sup> Association of Boxing Commissions

[http://www.abcbboxing.com/unified\\_mma\\_rules.html](http://www.abcbboxing.com/unified_mma_rules.html)

<sup>(3)</sup> 2007 60 Minutes report on Mixed Martial Arts

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=3108666n>