

HB 776 -- Regulation of Athletics

Sponsor: Wasson

This bill changes the laws regarding the regulation of mixed martial arts, full contact karate, boxing, kickboxing, and wrestling. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Defines "amateur," "boxing," "mixed martial arts," "full contact karate," "kickboxing," and "wrestling";
- (2) Redefines "combative fighting";
- (3) Revises the definition of "bout" to include professional mixed martial arts;
- (4) Authorizes the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration to establish rules governing amateur sanctioning bodies;
- (5) Allows a gross receipts tax to be assessed on pay-per-view telecasts of these events;
- (6) Limits the number of rounds and the time of each round for professional events;
- (7) Increases the length of the medical suspension for contestants who lose consciousness during a professional event from 120 to 180 days;
- (8) Expands the disciplinary authority of the Office of Athletics within the division; and
- (9) Requires contestants participating in boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, full-contact karate, or mixed martial arts to sign a bout contract with the event promoter before each contest which specifies their weight, how much they are being paid, and the date and location of the event.