
Business & Financial Services Committee

HB 1420

Brief Description: Concerning theatrical wrestling.

Sponsors: Representatives Hudgins, MacEwen and Bergquist.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creates a theatrical wrestling school license and permits the schools to schedule a limited number of public performances.
- Exempts trainees at a theatrical wrestling school from licensure.
- Requires wrestling show promoters to have an emergency technician present during the wrestling show.

Hearing Date: 2/1/17

Staff: Robbi Kesler (786-7153).

Background:

The Department of Licensing (Department) regulates boxing, martial arts, kickboxing, and wrestling events. Wrestling events are defined by statute to mean "a form of sports entertainment in which the participants display their skills in a physical struggle against each other in the ring and either the outcome may be predetermined or the participants do not necessarily strive to win, or both."

Licensure.

Wrestlers, boxers, martial arts participants, promoters, and others involved with the events must obtain a license from the Department unless exempt. The Department currently requires that wrestling event promoters pay a fee equal to 6 percent of the gross receipts for any event held under the promoter license, and a separate license fee is assessed to participants and promoters. Events held at a school, college, or university in which all participants are students are exempt from regulation.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Medical Personnel Requirement.

The promoter of a wrestling, boxing, or martial arts event must, at its own expense, have an ambulance or paramedical unit on site at the event. The Department may, at its discretion, require the presence of a physician at a wrestling event and may require the medical examination of a participant.

Summary of Bill:

Licensure.

A new theatrical wrestling school license is created. Licensees may hold a limited number of public events per year (to be determined by the Department), which must feature at least 80 percent amateur participants. Wrestling participants engaged in training or a show at a theatrical wrestling school are exempt from licensure. The Department has rulemaking authority to implement the license.

Medical Personnel Requirement.

Wrestling show promoters may satisfy the ambulance or paramedical unit requirement by having a licensed emergency medical technician on site at the event.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.