

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 580 (Chairman. Economic Matters Committee)
Economic Matters

State Athletic Commission - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

This bill extends the sunset date for the State Athletic Commission (SAC) from July 1, 2001, to July 1, 2011. The bill also requires that an evaluation of the commission be made on or before July 1, 2011. The SAC must report to the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs and House Economic Matters Committees on or before October 1, 2001, on: (1) the popularity of full contact martial arts sports (with regulation recommendations); and (2) SAC's efforts to market boxing and wrestling in Maryland.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues and expenditures would be maintained for the SAC beyond FY 2002. The proposed FY 2001 budget includes \$135,000 in general fund expenditures for the commission. The commission's fee revenues have averaged approximately \$20,000 for the last five years. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The SAC will terminate on July 1, 2001.

Background: The SAC is responsible for the supervision of all professional boxing, kickboxing, and wrestling events held in the State. Three exceptions exist to the commission's responsibility:

- intercollegiate, interscholastic, or intramural boxing, kickboxing, or

- wrestling;
- amateur boxing, kickboxing, or wrestling supervised by a nationally recognized amateur organization; and
- martial arts where no contact is intended to cause physical harm to an opponent.

The bill is a result of the sunset evaluation of the SAC conducted by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) during 1999. In its report, DLS made five recommendations, as follows:

- the SAC termination should be extended until July 1, 2011;
- the General Assembly should pass legislation removing the regulation of professional wrestling from the Maryland Code;
- the General Assembly should pass legislation removing the regulation of kickboxing from the Maryland Code;
- if the General Assembly continues to regulate kickboxing, then it should consider passing legislation that would regulate other forms of professional martial arts; and
- the SAC should submit a report, by October 1, 2000, to the General Assembly summarizing its efforts to market boxing and wrestling in Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 363 (Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee) - Economic and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2000
bc/jr

Analysis by: Brian D. Baugus

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510