

---

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON SB0032**

TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment Senate Committee  
FROM: John Dove, Commissioner, Occupational and Professional Licensing  
DATE: 01/29/2026  
BILL: SB0032 State Athletic Commission – Blood Tests for Contestants

---

**MD LABOR POSITION: SUPPORT**

Senate Bill 32 extends the validity period of required blood tests for athletic contestants under the Maryland State Athletic Commission (MSAC). Currently, contestants must show proof of negative test results for HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C within 30 days prior to receiving a license or participating in a contest. The bill changes that time frame from 30 days to 90 days, bringing Maryland into parity with several neighboring states and broader national industry standards.

**Problem**

Neighboring states such as Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania accept bloodwork for up to 180 days, and the District of Columbia allows results to remain valid for up to one year. Maryland is the only jurisdiction in the region with a restrictive 30-day window, placing the state at a competitive disadvantage and creating unnecessary barriers for athletes and promoters entering Maryland. The current 30-day time frame for bloodwork validity creates several challenges for contestants and promoters.

The current regulatory scheme creates two main problems. First, while promoters cover the cost of required medical testing, athletes are still required to repeatedly undergo and schedule new tests, even when prior results remain valid in other states. The system with the current 30-day validity increases burdens for both fighters and promoters. Second, the discrepancy between Maryland's law and the laws of our neighboring states can result in last-minute cancellations of events due to the unexpected requirement. Further, if fighters have to drop out of a fight because of illness or injury, it is difficult for promoters to find fighters to fill in because of the strict requirements in Maryland. Both promoters and athletes are impacted by disrupted competition schedules and sudden changes in expected income.

### **Solution**

To reduce unnecessary financial and logistical burdens on athletes and promoters in Maryland, while still prioritizing public health and safety standards, this bill extends the validity period for required blood tests from 30 days to 90 days. By allowing contestants to use test results from the previous 90 days, the bill provides greater flexibility for scheduling competitions and medical appointments, lowers the frequency of testing costs, and simplifies compliance with State Athletic Commission regulations. The extension also moves Maryland closer to the practices of neighboring states that have longer test validity windows, and takes a significant step in eliminating some of the burdens faced by both promoters and fighters. Athletes can continue to participate safely without facing excessive administrative or financial barriers, and promoters can maintain their scheduled events without avoidable disruptions.

**The Department respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 32.**

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at [Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov](mailto:Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov)