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Senate State Government Committee

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BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 632 Printer's Number 713
Prime Sponsor: Robbins

A. Synopsis

Amends Title 5 (Athletics and Sports) to further regulate athlete agents and the conduct of boxing contests and professional wrestling contests in the Commonwealth.

B. Bill Analysis

Senate Bill 632 amends Title 5 (Athletics and Sports) to further regulate boxing, professional wrestling and athlete agents.

Boxing

Permits the State Athletic Commission to enter into interstate compacts and/or agreements as authorized by the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act to supervise professional boxing in states with no commissions or on tribal reservations. Currently, the Commission may not enter into such an agreement without authorizing legislation.

Eliminates all exceptions to the age limitation and instead makes a distinction between professional (which would be limited to those at least 18 years of age) and amateur boxing. Any age restriction or requirement for amateur boxer participation in any amateur contest or exhibition would have to conform to local amateur association rules as approved by the commission. This eliminates Pennsylvania's current minimum age of 12 for participation in an amateur boxing match and allows the Athletic Commission to adopt age requirements consistent with National Amateur Association rules, which allow 8, 9, and 10 year olds to compete at the local level.

Allows the Commission the authority to set glove weights by regulation. Currently, two specific glove weights are designated in statute in accordance with the specific weight of the boxer.

Requires that each contract between a boxer and a manager provide for binding arbitration of disputes by the Athletic Commission. The arbitration must be conducted by a representative of the commission appointed by the chairman. The arbitration must be conducted pursuant to the Uniform Arbitration Act.

Wrestling

Clarifies that a professional wrestling promoter include a person who produces, arranges or stages any professional wrestling contest. Currently, the definition provides only for exhibitions.

Allows the option of a certified registered nurse practitioner to be at ringside in lieu of physician's attendance at wrestling events. Under current law, the presence of a physician is required and there is no provision for the presence of any other type of medical professional.

Allows the Commission to impose civil penalties of not more than \$5,000 for any violation of the Wrestling Act provisions of Title 5. The Boxing Act provisions of Title 5 currently allow the Commission to impose civil penalties for violations relating to boxing.

Athlete Agents

Eliminates the bonding requirements for athlete agents who recruit professional athletes only and who are registered with a professional players association as an agent. The bill continues to retain the existing bonding requirement for athlete agents who recruit student athletes.

Effective date: 60 days.