



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

November 10, 2003

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 426: Deregulation of Amateur Boxing Contests

Assembly Bill 426 (AB 426) would deregulate amateur boxing contests in the state. The bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Small Business, which recommended the legislation for passage on a vote of 10-0. On October 27, 2003, AB 426 was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance.

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

Current Regulation of Boxing Events. Under current law, the Department of Regulation and Licensing regulates boxing and sparring events and for amateur matches charges an annual fee of \$10 for any club sponsoring such an event. A boxing club may not conduct other types of boxing or sparring exhibitions without a license issued by the Department, which also licenses matchmakers, managers, referees, examining physicians, boxers, seconds and trainers. In addition, current regulations enforced by the Department may limit the number of rounds, specify the weight of gloves, and require the examination of boxers by licensed physicians. Current law exempts amateur and exhibition boxing or sparring matches conducted by universities, colleges and high school athletic programs, certain fraternal organizations and municipal recreation departments from these regulations.

Proposed Changes. AB 426 would exempt all amateur boxing contests from regulation by the Department of Regulation and Licensing. The bill would define an amateur boxing contest as a boxing contest in which none of the boxers is compensated for participating in the contest. Further, AB 426 would specify that a person may conduct such a contest in Wisconsin only if it is

sanctioned by or conducted under the rules of the national governing body for amateur boxing recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Because of the general deregulation of amateur boxing in the state, the current law provision specifically exempting amateur and exhibition boxing or sparring matches conducted by universities, colleges and high school athletic programs, certain fraternal organizations and municipal recreation departments would be repealed. The Department would retain the authority to regulate professional boxing contests in the state, defined under the bill as a boxing contest in which one or more boxers is compensated for participating in the contest.

FISCAL EFFECT

The Department of Regulation and Licensing projects an annual revenue loss of approximately \$100 under AB 426, based on the deregulation of an estimated 10 amateur boxing or sparring matches per year. To the extent that the Department has in the past provided an inspector with a \$25 per event per diem and actual and necessary expenses in connection with their attendance at an amateur boxing event, the agency would realize modest cost savings. The Department estimates that such savings could amount to as much as \$7,200 PR annually.

Prepared by: Darin Renner