

HCS HB 606 -- MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

SPONSOR: Stevenson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute adds professional, amateur, and youth mixed martial arts contests to the list of sports contests that the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration has general charge and supervision.

Any person younger than 18 years of age is prohibited from participating in a mixed martial arts contest or exhibition in any cage or other type of enclosure that would inhibit general access to the participants for the purpose of rendering assistance. Any individual who allows a person younger than 18 years of age to participate will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will protect children from being exposed to a dangerous activity in which they are often forced into participating.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Stevenson.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that ambulances and emergency medical services are not required to be present at amateur mixed martial arts fights.

Testifying on the bill was Office of Athletics, Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration.