

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on March 9, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Russell Mills, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes' Office
John Beverlin, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Tom Burroughs
Bill Rork
George Clarke
Rick Huddelston, Mix Marshal Arts
Derek Stone

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Chairperson Brungardt called the meeting to order. He asked the committee to consider the approval of the minutes for the meetings of February 10, February 11, and February 17.

Senator Teichman made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Barnett. The motion to approve the minutes for February 10, February 11, and February 17 passed.

Chairperson Brungardt opened the hearing for **Sub HB 2713, Establishing a boxing commission, athletic commission, athletic fee fund, licensing, procedures for complaints**. He welcomed Representative Tom Burroughs to the podium.

Representative Burroughs presented testimony to the committee concerning and in support of **Sub HB 2713 (Attachment 1)**. He also presented to the committee testimony in support of the bill that he had received (**Attachment 2**) from William K. Rork, (**Attachment 3**) from Tony Holden, (**Attachment 4**) from John Brown, (**Attachment 5**) from Bonnie Sharp, and (**Attachment 6**) from Peter Howes. Representative Burroughs also presented an article from the *Kansas City Star* to the committee (**Attachment 7**). He also presented an article from fightnews.com (**Attachment 8**), and charts concerning revenue that could be generated by the Athletic Commission (**Attachment 9**) and (**Attachment 10**).

Representative Burroughs described the bill to the committee including the make-up of the Athletic Commission. He explained to the committee that the bill makes the Tough Man Contest illegal.

Chairperson Brungardt asked Representative Burroughs to expand on the economic development potentials of **Sub HB 2713**.

Representative Burroughs explained the media markets available for fights to the committee.

Chairperson Brungardt asked the committee for questions.

Senator Barnett asked how the bill would treat a city or county that did not wish to have fighting.

Representative Burroughs explained that the city or county would register with the Athletic Commission. The Athletic Commission would then keep a list and prevent sanctioned fights from occurring in those cities or counties.

Dennis Hodgins asked if the bill took away the local control to stage a fight and gave that control to the state. Representative Burroughs explained that the local communities do not have the personnel to deal with the rules and regulations. He explained that the local authorities put themselves at risk for liability if somebody

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gets hurt. He further explained that the state, through the regulatory body of the Athletic Commission, could ensure the health of the fighters better than local authorities can.

Chairperson Brungardt thanked Representative Burroughs and asked Bill Rork to the podium.

Mr. Rork explained his support for **Sub HB 2713**. He explained that if the state does not put in place an Athletic Commission for the regulation of boxing, the state will not be able to have boxing past July 1, 2004. Mr. Rork explained that Kansas champion fighters now go to other states and even other countries to fight because of Kansas's lack of an Athletic Commission.

Chairperson Brungardt thanked Mr. Rork and welcomed George Clarke to the podium.

Mr. Clarke explained his support for **Sub HB 2713**. He explained to the committee that his wife has to go to Kansas City, Missouri, to fight because of the lack of an Athletic Commission in Kansas. He further explained that his number one goal is to protect fighters. He stated that because of the lack of a sanctioning body in Kansas, referees and judges have to come from other states when Kansas has a fight. Mr. Clarke explained that he felt these referees and judges do not offer the kind of protection and regulation Kansas fighters need.

Chairperson Brungardt thanked Mr. Clarke and welcomed Rick Huddelston to the podium.

Mr. Huddelston explained his support for **Sub HB 2713**. He explained that his company, CQCLC, is involved in mixed marshal arts. He explained the need to desire an Athletic Commission for the safety and protection of fighters. He further explained that MMA, mixed marshal arts, will be one of the most popular sports in the world within the next couple of years.

Chairperson Brungardt thanked Mr. Huddelston and welcomed Derek Stone to the podium.

Mr. Stone explained his support for **Sub HB 2713**, and presented to the committee an overview of the World Wrestling Entertainment ([Attachment 11](#)). Mr. Stone explained that he represented the National Wrestling Alliance. He explained his desire to protect wrestlers from dangerous stunts and conditions.

Chairperson Brungardt observed that the wrestling Mr. Stone was talking about is exhibition or demonstration as opposed to a fighting contest.

Mr. Stone stated that Chairperson Brungardt was correct.

Senator Clark asked if tickets for wrestling were subject to Kansas sales tax.

Mr. Stone stated that the tickets were subject to the tax.

Senator O' Connor asked for a definition of athletic competitions.

Theresa Kiernan explained that athletic competitions were defined on pages two and six.

Senator Clark wanted to know if wrestling was part of the definition for an athletic competition.

Representative Burroughs explained that wrestling was not regulated because of its predetermined outcome. He explained that the Athletic Commission will still oversee the licensing of the wrestler and referees, and make sure ambulatory services are provided for events.

Senator O' Connor asked about the regulation of amateur sports.

Representative Burroughs explained that amateur sports were not regulated in the bill.

Ms. Kiernan explained that some wording concerning the definition of the commission needed to be cleaned up. There was a problem with a license granted by a commission versus a license granted by the commissioner.

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Chairperson Brungardt asked the committee for additional questions. None were asked.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. in room 231-N.