

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on March 14, 2006 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Judy Loganbill- Absent  
Mark Treaster- Absent  
Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Rena Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes  
Helen Pedigo, Revisor of Statutes  
Carlene Maag, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Aaron Davis, Boxing Commissioner  
Joe Kelly, Titian Entertainment, LLC  
Representative Tom Burroughs

Others attending:

See attached list.

Staff gave an overview of the 2004 House sub for **HB 2713** which created the Kansas Regulated Sports Act. The bill established an Athletic Commission within the Department of Commerce. The five members of the Athletic Commission is appointed by the Governor, and the Commission appoints the Boxing Commissioner.

The bill provides for complaint and hearing processes, multiple licensing, and injunction power for the Athletic Commission. The bill identifies, but does not regulate, amateur events. (Attachment 1)

Chairperson Gordon welcomed Aaron Davis, Commissioner of Boxing to the Committee. The Mission Statement of the Kansas State Athletic Commission shall: work toward making Kansas a model state for the welfare of boxers, kickboxers, wrestlers, and martial artists.

The Vision Statement adopted by the Kansas Athletic Commission states: The Kansas State Athletic Commission fosters a sound and safe environment in which the sports of boxing, kickboxing, wrestling and martial arts can thrive. Since August 2005, there has been a great amount of excitement, enthusiasm and support for the activities of the Kansas Athletic Commission. Of the 19 events that have been held, 11 were wrestling, seven boxing, and one featured mixed martial arts.

Kansas City, Lawrence, Fort Scott, Holton, Pittsburgh, Topeka and Wichita have hosted events. Junction City is scheduled to host an event in April.

Kansas has a number of exciting fighters including Kansas City's Sumya Anani whose record is 25-1 including 11 knockouts. (Attachment 2)

The Committee was given copies of newspaper articles and other media coverage of Kansas Athletic Commission activities and events.

Joe Kelly, Titian Entertainment, LLC gave oral testimony pertaining to the positive aspects of a Boxing Commissioner. A Commissioner will handle the legal aspects leaving more time for the promoter to focus on the goals of aligning fights. Having an Athletic Commission allows fighters to fight in their home town. A fighter being popular in their home town will help them to be popular as they go further out in the world.

Mr. Kelly told the Committee it was good that when the Athletic Commission was formed it included Mixed Martial Arts. Mixed Martial Arts is one of the more popular growing sports in the country.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Economic Development Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 14, 2006 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Representative Tom Burroughs told the Committee two things that were important to the Boxing Commission was integrity of the industry and fighter safety. It is the Boxing Commissioner's responsibility after an event to insure information gets to "fight facts" in a timely and accurate manor. No one can change information that has been entered into "fight facts" except the Boxing Commissioner.

Six months after the inception of the Boxing Commission, a fighter from Kansas won a world title. The industry is growing; it is obvious people are knowledgeable about the issue. It is possible as the industry grown, changes will need to be made to the legislation.

Discussion followed the presentation.

Committee was provided information from the Department of Commerce regarding WIA Expenditure Information. (Attachment 3)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2006.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Economic Development Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 14, 2006 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.