

Senate Finance Committee

Deb Martone 271-4980

SB 96-FN, relative to the compensation of the boxing and wrestling commission.

Hearing Date: January 31, 2017

Time Opened: 1:15 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:23 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Daniels, Reagan, Morse, D'Allesandro and Feltes

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Giuda

Bill Analysis: This bill increases the daily compensation of members of the boxing and wrestling commission.

This bill is a request of the secretary of state.

Sponsors:

Sen. D'Allesandro

Who supports the bill: Senator D'Allesandro; Paula Penney.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator D'Allesandro, Prime Sponsor:

- Members of the Boxing and Wrestling Commission receive \$45.00 per event. They have received this same compensation since 1981. Senator D'Allesandro believes the raise is appropriate, given the timeframe.
- The commission does generate revenue.
- There are 3 members of the commission, with former State Senator Robert Stephen serving as Chair for many years.
- The scope of the commission's activities has changed dramatically.
- Senator Reagan inquired as to the exact duties of the commission. Senator D'Allesandro explained the members create and promote boxing and wrestling events, arrange for officiating and physicians, and coordinate boxer weigh-ins. Senator Reagan further inquired about licensing for such events. Senator D'Allesandro agreed licenses must be purchased.

Paula Penney, Secretary of State's Office:

- The Secretary of State's Office provides administrative support to the Boxing and Wrestling Commission. They are administratively attached to the Secretary of State's Office.
- The commission averages a couple of events per month, statewide. They

sometimes occur at the Hampton Beach Casino.

- The big event for the year is the WWE event, held at the SNHU Arena in Manchester.
- Due to the popularity of mixed martial arts, the commission's revenue has steadily increased.
- Senator Reagan inquired as to the fee for an event. Ms. Penney indicated the individual licensing fee is \$50.00 for each participant.
- Commission members do not get paid for performing weigh-ins, but are paid for the ensuing events.
- Senator Daniels noted earlier testimony described the commission as a "revenue generator," but the Fiscal Note only mentions expenses. How much revenue does the commission bring in? Ms. Penney indicated annual revenue is approximately \$18,000 - \$25,000. Their budget is considerably less.

Action: Ought to Pass

dm

Date Hearing Report completed: February 1, 2017