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## OHIO ATHLETIC COMMISSION

- Eliminates certain qualifications for membership on the Ohio Athletic Commission.
- Enables a Commission member whose term has ended to continue to serve until a replacement is appointed for an indefinite period, as opposed to a maximum of 60 days.
- Specifies that individuals participating in mixed martial arts events or other unarmed combat sports overseen by the Commission are subject to licensing requirements.
- Removes the requirement that a person wishing to participate as a contestant in an event overseen by the Commission submit with the license application a certified copy of a physical examination.
- Removes the requirement that a person seeking a referee's license pass an examination administered by the Commission.
- Alters the form and content of a license issued by the Commission.

### Commission membership and voting

(R.C. 3773.33)

The act revises the qualifications for membership on the Ohio Athletic Commission, which consists of five voting members and two nonvoting members. The act replaces the prior membership requirements with one requirement that two voting members must be knowledgeable in boxing and mixed martial arts; the act would specify no athletics-related required qualifications for the other members. Prior law required two voting members be knowledgeable in boxing, at least one be knowledgeable and experienced in high school athletics, one be knowledgeable and experienced in professional athletics, and at least one be knowledgeable and experienced in collegiate athletics.

The act removes the 60-day limitation for members continuing in office after the member's term ends. Under prior law, a member continued in office subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the member's successor takes office, or until a period of 60 days had elapsed, whichever occurred first.

As under continuing law, three voting members constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of three voting members is necessary for any action taken by the



Commission. The act changes the terminology for votes needed to be taken from three (of five) voting members being needed to a majority of voting members being needed.

## **Licensure**

(R.C. 3773.41 and 3773.42)

### **Mixed martial arts**

The act subjects individuals involved in mixed martial arts events and other unarmed combat sports to Commission regulation.

### **Contestants**

The act removes the requirement that an application for a contestant's license, or renewal of that license, also include the results of a physical examination of the applicant conducted by a specified health care practitioner within 60 days of applying.

### **Referees**

One of the requirements for a referee's license is that the applicant is qualified to hold the license by reason of knowledge and experience. The act removes one of the criteria an applicant must meet to be determined to possess the knowledge and experience necessary: the person has obtained a passing grade on an examination administered by the Commission and designed to test knowledge of the rules of the particular sport, the Commission rules, and other appropriate aspects of officiating. The remaining criteria remain: the person must (1) complete Commission referee training requirements and (2) meet Commission experience requirements.

### **License**

The act replaces the requirement that each license the Commission issues bear a "serial number" with a requirement that the license bear a "number," and removes the requirement that the license bear the correct ring of the licensee, the Commission seal, and the signature of the Commission chairperson.

