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**Fiscal Analysis of
Proposed North Carolina Boxing Authority Boxing/Mixed Martial Arts Weigh-In Rule
14B NCAC 10 .0501 – WEIGH-INS BOXING
14B NCAC 10 .0801 – WEIGH-INS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**

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Impact: State Government: Yes
Local Government: No
Private: No
Substantial Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 143-652.1

Summary

The proposed rule changes arose as a result of a nation-wide trend to increase hydration time before boxing and mixed martial arts contests. This trend prompted various contestants and promoters to request the North Carolina Boxing Authority to change its existing rules to allow more time for contestants to properly hydrate after their scheduled weigh-ins before the contest. It is hoped that these rule changes will address these hydration concerns and thus attract more contestants and promoters who have been reluctant in the past to bring their events to North Carolina. These changes are also necessary so that North Carolina can continue to make fighter safety its number one concern by incorporating the latest developments and trends while remaining uniform with other states rules.

Boxing is a major spectator sport in North Carolina and is regulated by the North Carolina Boxing Authority, which is a part of the Alcohol Law Enforcement Branch of the State Bureau of Investigation. The main purpose of the Boxing Authority's regulations is to keep participants safe and to sanction organizations that promote live boxing, kickboxing, mixed martial arts, and tough man bouts. This mission is accomplished through the permitting and licensing processes and the participant safety rules found in the Boxing Authority rules codified in Chapter 10 of Title 14B of the North Carolina Administrative Code.

North Carolina normally ranks in the top ten in the country for event night bouts, holding boxing and tough man events each year, including professional, amateur, sanctioned amateur and tough man boxing. In 2013/14 FY, the NC Boxing Authority issued more than 1,400 licenses to promoters, matchmakers, managers, corner men, judges, referees, timekeepers, knockdown timekeepers, announcers, and fighters.

The supervisor of the Boxing Authority has the power to monitor, investigate and use judicial injunctions, suspensions, fines and criminal prosecution to prevent corruption such as economic exploitation of fighters, unlicensed or illegal events, or fatalities. The Boxing Authority works with the Association of Boxing Commissions, a nonprofit organization that promotes the health and safety of contestants but has no enforcement authority over its members.

Responsibilities of the North Carolina Boxing Authority include:

1. Annual licensing of all promoters, managers, matchmakers, ring officials, seconds and contestants doing business in the state of North Carolina.
2. Assuring bonds, permits and insurance coverage are obtained for all events as set out in the state statute and rules as adopted by the agency.
3. Active regulation of each professional boxing, kickboxing and tough man event for compliance to federal and state law and rules as adopted by the agency.
4. Formation and adoption of rules and policies to assure the safety and integrity of events and the compliance with state and federal law.
5. Prevention of unlicensed or illegal events from occurring through active monitoring, investigation and use of judicial injunctions, suspensions, fines and criminal prosecution.
6. Interaction with other states boxing regulatory agencies to assure coordination and reciprocal honoring of fines, prosecutions, investigation and suspensions.
7. Issuance of federal identification cards to all professional boxers that reside in North Carolina.

Description of Proposed Actions

The Boxing Authority proposes to amend two current rules governing weigh-ins for contestants competing in boxing and mixed martial arts events to increase contestant safety. Currently, boxing contestants are required to participate in a weigh-in (to establish whether the contestant's weight falls within the permissible limits for his/her weight class) no earlier than 6 p.m. the day before an event. Currently, mixed martial arts contestants are required to participate in two separate weigh-ins; one on the day before an event and a second weigh-in on the day of the event within eight hours of the starting time of the event. The proposed amendment to 14B NCAC 10. 0501 will allow for an earlier weigh-in time for boxing event contestants of noon or later the day before a scheduled event.

The proposed amendment to 14B NCAC 10. 0801 will eliminate the current requirement that mixed martial art contestants weigh-in at a second day weigh-in, thus allowing them more time to rehydrate prior to competing in an event. These rule changes are consistent with the nation-wide trend encouraging earlier weigh-in times in order to allow participants more time to hydrate properly before contests.

The additional proposed changes to 14B NCAC 10.0501 and 10.0801 are to address questions raised about the statutory authority of the Boxing Authority to impose penalties. The Boxing Authority seeks to delete the provisions regarding the assessment of penalties for failure of a contestant to be present at a weigh-in. Historically, the Boxing Authority has seldom issued penalties to contestants. Generally, when contestants

cannot be present at the weigh-in, they make the promoter aware and other arrangements are made. Therefore, the proposed rule changes will not create a measurable impact to contestants, nor will they cause any measurable reduction in revenue for the State for this same reason. Once the penalty provisions are removed, the Boxing Authority does not expect to see an increase in no-shows at weigh-ins because the contestants typically want to view their opponent weigh-in and, in most cases, would be fined by the promoter for not showing.

Additional changes to the rules seek to conform the rules to requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act which have changed since the initial adoption of these rules.

Anticipated Impacts

These amendments are only intended to increase the time contestants have to hydrate properly prior to an event. These proposed amendments will not change anything in the permitting or licensing processes.

State Impact Analysis: The proposed amendments to the rules will not cause the state to incur any financial costs nor do the changes require disbursement of state funds. The State will benefit in that the rule changes will allow the State to attract boxing and mixed martial arts contestants and promoters from various other states who have been reluctant to sponsor events in North Carolina because of the current requirement for the second-day weigh-in which other states do not require. For example, Bellator Mixed Martial Arts, one of the leading mixed martial arts organizations based out of California, has shown interest in promoting events in North Carolina on several occasions; however, they have declined to promote such events after learning that North Carolina has yet to change its current rules which limit the rehydration period out of concern for their participant's safety. Thus, the benefit of the rule changes will be the increased revenue generated from promoters bringing their events into North Carolina. These types of events, such as those promoted by Bellator Mixed Martial Arts, have been known to generate up to \$10,000 of revenue for the State. It is impossible to determine with any certainty the amount of revenue which would be generated for local hotels, restaurants, and other businesses as a result of these events.

Local Impact Analysis: None.

Private Impact: The regulated community will not incur any direct or indirect financial costs as a result of these rule changes. However, the benefit of these rule changes will be increased participant safety.

Substantial Economic Impact: None. There will be no substantial economic impact to the public.

See proposed rule text changes beginning on the next page.

14B NCAC 10 .0501 ~~WEIGH-INS-BOXING~~ WEIGH-INS FOR BOXING

(a) ~~Boxers shall be classified by weight as shown in the following schedule. A contestant shall not be permitted to compete if the difference in weight between the contestants exceeds the difference shown in the following schedule:~~ Contestants shall be classified by weight and may fight above or below his or her weight class in accordance with this Paragraph. The maximum amount of weight difference between the two contestants shall be decided by the lower weight class. A contestant shall not be permitted to compete if the difference in weight between the contestants exceeds the difference shown in the following schedule:

<u>Weight Class</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Allowance</u>
(1) Flyweight	112 pounds or under <u>less</u>	not more than 3 pounds.
(2) Bantamweight	over 112 pounds to 118 pounds	not more than 3 pounds.
(3) Featherweight	over 118 pounds to 126 pounds	not more than 5 pounds.
(4) Junior Lightweight	over 126 pounds to 130 pounds	not more than 7 pounds.
(5) Lightweight	over 130 pounds to 135 pounds	not more than 7 pounds.
(6) Junior Welterweight	over 135 pounds to 140 pounds	not more than 9 pounds.
(7) Welterweight	over 140 pounds to 147 pounds	not more than 9 pounds.
(8) Junior Middleweight	over 147 pounds to 154 pounds	not more than 11 pounds.
(9) Middleweight	over 154 pounds to 160 pounds	not more than 11 pounds.
(10) Light Heavyweight	over 160 pounds to 175 pounds	not more than 12 pounds.
(11) Cruiserweight	over 175 pounds to 190 pounds	not more than 15 pounds.
(12) Heavyweight	over 190 pounds	no limit

Weight class	Weights	Allowances
Flyweight	up to 112 pounds	not more than 3 pounds
Bantamweight	112.1 to 118.0 pounds	not more than 3 pounds
Featherweight	118.1 to 126.0 pounds	not more than 5 pounds
Junior Lightweight	126.1 to 130.0 pounds	not more than 7 pounds
Lightweight	130.1 to 135.0 pounds	not more than 7 pounds
Junior Welterweight	135.1 to 140.0 pounds	not more than 9 pounds
Welterweight	140.1 to 147.0 pounds	not more than 9 pounds
Junior Middleweight	147.1 to 154.0 pounds	not more than 11 pounds

Middleweight	154.1 to 160.0 pounds	not more than 11 pounds
Light Heavyweight	160.1 to 175.0 pounds	not more than 12 pounds
Cruiserweight	175.1 to 190.0 pounds	not more than 15 pounds
Heavyweight	over 190.1 pounds	no limit

(b) Contestants in matches shall be weighed on the same scale at a time and place to be determined by the Division representative, in the presence of the opponent and the Division representative. Once the time and location of weigh-ins has been established, contestants shall be notified by the promoter or his or her designee. All contestants, except heavyweights, are shall be limited to shirt, shorts shorts, and socks while being weighed in. The weigh-in shall occur 12 hours or less prior to the scheduled starting time of the first match of the program of ~~matches, provided however, that~~ matches. However, where a program of matches is scheduled to begin in the afternoon, the Division representative, if requested by the promoter, may approve an early weigh-in time of ~~6:00 p.m. noon~~ noon or later ~~the evening before~~ the day before the day of the program of matches if personnel is available. Substitution of a contestant or contestants shall not be allowed after the weigh-in.

(c) Failure of a contestant to be present at the weigh-in at the time and place designated by the Division representative shall result in the ~~following penalties, which are in addition~~ contestant's loss of right to his loss of right to view the weigh-in of his or her opponent: opponent.

- (1) ~~For first occurrence, the contestant shall be penalized twenty five dollars (\$25.00);~~
- (2) ~~For second occurrence, the contestant shall be penalized fifty dollars (\$50.00);~~
- (3) ~~The third occurrence shall be penalized by suspending the license of the contestant and not allowing the contestant to engage in the program of matches; and~~
- (4) ~~The fourth occurrence shall be penalized by revoking the license of the participant.~~

(d) If the weight of any contestant in a match fails to meet the weight parameters as set forth in Paragraph (a) of this Rule at the time of the official weigh-in, her or she shall have two additional hours to meet the weight parameters provided that: if, at the time of the official weigh in, the weight of any contestant in a match fails to meet the weight parameters of the rules set forth herein shall have two additional hours to meet such weight parameters:

- (1) No contestants ~~contestant~~ that weighs 147 pounds or less may lose more than two pounds in less than 12 hours of before a match.
- (2) No contestant weighing more than 147 pounds or less than 190 pounds, with the exception of ~~heavyweights,~~ may lose more than three pounds in less than 12 hours of before a match.
- (3) No contestant weighing more than 190 pounds may lose more than four pounds in less than 12 hours before a match.

~~This Paragraph also applies to second day weigh ins.~~

(4) Contestants may not gain weight after the official weigh-ins have begun to make weight parameters during the time of weigh-ins.

(e) At the time of weigh-in, each contestant in a match shall provide to the Division representative for inspection a picture identification issued by a federal, state or local ~~unit of government~~ unit of government, or other governmental authority. ~~The contestant may utilize the passport issued by another state in which he is licensed provided that such passport contains the information as required in this Paragraph:~~

(1) ~~Legal name of contestant;~~

(2) ~~Ring name of contestant;~~

(3) ~~A passport type picture which shows the face of the contestant. Passports issued by states that do not require a picture shall be accompanied by another form of positive identification;~~

(4) ~~Address of contestant;~~

(5) ~~Age of contestant;~~

(6) ~~Date, place, opponent and result of the contestant's professional contests since the issuance of the passport, which entries shall be signed by the Division representative as designated by the rules in this Chapter or the rules of the jurisdiction in which the match occurred; and~~

(7) ~~Signature of the contestant and a statement attesting to the validity of the information contained in his passport.~~

(f) ~~The contestant may shall be required to complete a contestant information form annually which shall be provided by the Boxing Authority Section of the Division. Any contestant who refuses to complete this form shall not engage in any match in North Carolina.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-652.1.

14B NCAC 10 .0801 WEIGH INS-MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

The mixed martial arts weigh-ins ~~must~~ shall be conducted by a ~~Division representative at a place and time designated by the Division~~ in accordance with ~~14A NCAC 12 .0201, .0301, .0402, .0403 and .0501~~ the requirements of 14B NCAC 10 .0501, except for the following: ~~following exceptions or additional rules:~~

(1) ~~All contestants must weigh in. Contestants other than heavyweights, are limited to shorts, shirt and socks.~~

(2) ~~The scale shall be provided by the promoter and indicate an accurate weight for contestants.~~

(3) (a) ~~The chart in this Item indicates the weight allowances per weight class. A contestant may fight an opponent above or below his or her weight class. The maximum amount of weight difference between the two contestants shall be decided by lower weight class. Weight allowances permitted~~

between two different weight classes are as follows: Contestants shall be classified by weight and may fight above or below his or her weight class in accordance with Item (1) of this Rule. The maximum amount of weight difference between the two contestants shall be decided by the lower weight class. A contestant shall not be permitted to compete if the difference in weight between the contestants exceeds the difference shown in the following schedule:

Weight class	Weights	Allowances
Straw weight	up to 115 pounds <u>or less</u>	3 pounds
Flyweight	116 to 125 pounds	3 pounds
Bantamweight	126 to 135 pounds	3 pounds
Featherweight	136 to 145 pounds	5 pounds
Lightweight	146 to 155 pounds	5 pounds
Welterweight	156 to 170 pounds	5 pounds
Middleweight	171 to 185 pounds	7 pounds
Light Heavyweight	186 to 205 pounds	7 pounds
Heavyweight	206 to 265 pounds	7 pounds
Super Heavyweight	over 265 pounds	<u>no limit</u>

~~(4) When a weigh-in is conducted the day prior to the event, with the exception of the heavyweight class, all other contestants must weigh-in at a second weigh-in the next day scheduled by the Division representative within eight hours of the starting time of the event. The contestant may not be more than 13 pounds heavier than their recorded weight from the day prior.~~

~~(5)~~ (b) If the weight of any contestant fails to meet the weigh parameters as set forth in Item (2) of this Rule at the time of the official weigh-in, her or she shall have two additional hours to meet the weight parameters provided that:

(1) No contestant, weighing 145 pounds or less, may lose more than two pounds in less than 12 hours ~~of~~ before a contest.

(2) No contestant, weighing more than 145 146 pounds or ~~more~~ less than 186 pounds, may lose more than three pounds in less than 12 hours ~~of~~ before a contest.

(3) No contestant weighing more than 186 pounds may lose more than four pounds in less than 12 hours before a contest. This Item applies to a second day weigh-in also. This does not apply to light heavyweight class and above.

(4) Contestants may not gain weight after the official weigh-ins have begun to make weight parameters during the time of weigh-ins.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-652.1.