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## OHIO ATHLETIC COMMISSION

- Alters the membership of the Ohio Athletic Commission (OAC).
- Enables an OAC member whose term has ended to continue to serve as a commissioner until a replacement has been appointed for an indefinite period, as opposed to a current maximum of 60 days.
- Specifies that a majority of voting members is needed for any action to be taken by the OAC, as opposed to three of the five voting members under current law.
- Specifies that individuals participating in mixed martial arts events or other unarmed combat sports overseen by the OAC are subject to licensing requirements.
- Removes the requirement that a person wishing to participate as a contestant in an event overseen by the OAC 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 OAC.
- Alters the form and content of a license issued by the OAC.

### Ohio Athletic Commission

(R.C. 3773.33, 3773.41, and 3773.42)

#### Commission membership and voting

The bill revises the membership of the Ohio Athletic Commission (OAC). The OAC consists of five voting members and two nonvoting members. The bill replaces the current membership requirements with a requirement that two voting members must be knowledgeable in boxing and mixed martial arts; the bill would specify no required qualifications for the other members. Current law requires 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 bill removes the 60-day limitation for members continuing in office after the member's term ends. Under current law, a member continues 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 has elapsed, whichever occurs 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 OAC. The bill 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**

### **Mixed martial arts**

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

### **Contestants**

The bill 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 the applicant's knowledge and experience. The bill 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 OAC and designed to test the examinee's knowledge of the rules of the particular sport, the applicable OAC rules, and other appropriate aspects of officiating. The remaining criteria remain: the person must (1) complete OAC referee training requirements and (2) meet OAC experience requirements.

### **License**

The bill replaces the requirement that each license the OAC 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 OAC seal, and the signature of the OAC chairperson.