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State of Ohio
OHIO ATHLETIC COMMISSION

**TESTIMONY BEFORE
THE
FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
OHIO SENATE**

**THE HONORABLE TIM SCHAFFER, CHAIR
APRIL 26, 2023**

**STATEHOUSE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215**

**EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
FISCAL YEARS 2024-2025**

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning, Chairman Schaffer and the respected members of the Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee. My name is Chuck Haskell, Executive Director of the Ohio Athletic Commission. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present testimony and answer any questions you may have regarding the Executive Budget recommendations.

THE OHIO ATHLETIC COMMISSION

The mission of the Ohio Athletic Commission is to maintain high standards for promoters, contestants, officials, and non-officials for all events regulated by the Commission and to maximize the licensing of Athlete Agents to protect the rights and interests of all college and high school athletes while they are in negotiations with professional sports agents. The commission consistently works to improve the quality of rules and administrative codes that enforce the safety of the contestants, educate the officials and non-officials with up to date seminars and trainings, oversee the licensing of all participants, and provide regulation of all events to make sure that safety requirements are adequately met. The Ohio Athletic Commission consists of five voting members appointed by the Governor and two non-voting commissioners, one Executive Director, and two employees. The commission is dedicated to protecting the integrity of all events and the safety and well being of contestants who participate in boxing, mixed martial arts, kickboxing, professional wrestling and any other regulated unarmed combat sport. The Ohio Athletic Commission pledges to work alongside with other state athletic commissions to ensure the safety of all involved.

REVENUE GENERATION

The OAC Board is a non-GRF funded agency. The OAC derives its revenue from two basic sources service fees and event taxes. Service fees include athlete agent registrations, promoter licenses, event permits, officials and nonofficial licenses, ID's, fines and miscellaneous revenue. This revenue in FY 2022 was approximately \$129,649. The other portion of our revenue derived from Event Assessment was \$208,066, making a total revenue of \$337,715. This was an increase from prior years mainly due to the lessening of covid restrictions. The proposed increase for our budget for FY 2025 is to help purchase outdated office computers, equipment, as well as to provide more training to our officials and nonofficial workers. Up to date office equipment will help the OAC to be more efficient and more training programs for our officials and nonofficial workers ensure the safety of the contestants and efficient management of the events.

The OAC plans to increase our revenue with more local regional, national, and world class events in Ohio. With more events on all levels there will be more contestants, officials, promoters and fans. The OAC also has looked into taxing Pro wrestling events and Pay-per view events like other states do. There has also been discussions on raising the tax from 5% to 6% to help off-set additional expenses of regulating events in Ohio. To ensure efficient office work, the OAC is using CSA, OBM and other government

services to help employees to be more productive. As a result of the commission's diligent work, we are confident that more events will come to Ohio creating more interest and participation. In return, there will be an increase in both service fees and tax revenue.

CONCLUSION:

The Ohio Athletic Commission would like to take this opportunity to share information about both our mission and vision to maintain Ohio as one the most respected Athletic Commissions in the Nation and always improve the standards set to ensure the safety to all involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Haskell
Executive Director
Ohio Athletic Commission

