

**UTAH SPORTS AUTHORITY
PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

Business and Labor Interim Committee Report

November 14, 2007

During the 2007 General Session, the SB 167 was promulgated and transferred the Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission (PSUAC) from the Department of Commerce to the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED).

1. Three commissioners have been appointed to the PSUAC:
 - a. Alan Dayton
 - b. Ty McCartney
 - c. Richard Montanez
2. Two additional commissioners are to be appointed by the Governor after January 1, 2008.
3. The PSUAC has appointed Bill Colbert as its Secretary
4. Transition between agencies is complete.
 - a. Both the Department of Commerce and GOED were very cooperative during the transition between agencies.
 - b. Transition was been more complex than anticipated, specifically in obtaining access to the existing licensing software and other information technology resources. However, this issue is resolved.
5. Unarmed Combat sports are rapidly growing in popularity, especially for mixed martial arts (MMA).
 - a. Events are held nearly every week, with concurrent events occurring more frequently
 - b. An ad hoc working group of stakeholders is being established to:
 - i. Represent various boxing interests, and those with an interest in other forms of unarmed combat.
 - ii. Consider any necessary or desirable statutory and administrative changes concerning boxing and other forms of unarmed combat, including the establishment of separate regulation of boxing and other forms of unarmed combat.
6. Potential legislative and rule making issues to be considered:
 - a. Strengthening requirements for contestant medical and life insurance.
 - b. Providing additional guidance for "white collar" contests.
 - c. Considering mandating Hepatitis A/B Testing for all contestants to be consistent with many other jurisdictions.
 - d. Partitioning statutory requirements and rules for professional boxing, MMA and other unarmed combat sports need to be partitioned.
 - e. Returning a portion of the licensing or event revenue to the PSUAC to help cover increased operating costs. As number of events continue to increase, PSUAC operating costs are increasing, but operating budget remains static.
 - i. All professional licensing fees are returned to the General Fund
 - ii. Half of professional boxing event fees are returned to the General Fund and half are earmarked for amateur boxing organizations.
 - iii. All of other unarmed combat event fees are returned to the General Fund.
7. Web Page: <http://goed.utah.gov/sportsauthority/index.html>
8. Questions? Please contact Bill Colbert, PSUAC Secretary, at 801-538-5278 (office), 801-558-5278 (mobile) or bcolbert@utah.gov.