

SUBJECT: Allowing certain elimination tournaments to take place in the state

COMMITTEE: Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — K. King, Walle, Goldman, Harless, Hernandez, Herrero, T. King, Patterson, Schaefer, Shaheen

0 nays

1 absent — S. Thompson

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lee Parsley, Texans for Lawsuit Reform; Rod Bordelon, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Wayne Lee)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jessica Escobar, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)

BACKGROUND: Under Occupations Code sec. 2052.002, "combative sports" means sports, including boxing, kickboxing, martial arts, and mixed martial arts, in which participants voluntarily engage in full contact to score points, to cause an opponent to submit, or to disable an opponent in a contest, match, or exhibition, with certain exceptions.

Under Occupations Code sec. 2052.002, "elimination tournament" means a combative sports contest in which contestants compete in a series of matches until not more than one contestant remains in any weight category, with certain exceptions. An elimination tournament may not be conducted in this state.

Some have suggested that Texas should allow elimination tournaments under certain conditions and with certain safety measures.

DIGEST: HB 3742 would provide an exception from the statutory ban on elimination tournaments for events authorized by Texas Commission of

Licensing and Regulation.

The bill would establish that a ringside physician at a combative sports event would be immune from civil liability arising from acts within the scope of the physician's responsibilities if the physician acted in good faith and without malice. This change would apply only to an action commenced on or after the effective date of the bill.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the fiscal implications of HB 3742 could not be determined due to the uncertainty in the amount of elimination tournaments that would be held in Texas.