

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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H.289 (Act 69) An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation – As passed by the General Assembly

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT069/ACT069%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

Bill Summary

The bill proposes miscellaneous changes to professions regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation

Fiscal Impacts

Well Drillers (sec. 9-12) – Under current law well drillers are regulated by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Applicants apply for licensure through DEC and pay an annual fee of \$140. This fee is deposited in the Environmental Permit Fund. In FY20 there were 72 well drillers licensed in Vermont that paid \$10,080 in licensing fees.

This bill proposes to shift regulatory oversight of the well drilling profession to the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) as an advisor profession. Licensees would be subject to the \$100 initial licensing fee and \$240 biennial renewal fee established in 3 V.S.A. §125. The fees would generate approx. \$17,000 in revenue every two years that would be deposited in the Professional Regulatory Fee Fund.

Impact: Revenues shift from one special fund to a different special fund. Negligible net change.

Mixed Martial Arts (sec. 15-17) – Currently, the regulation of mixed martial artists falls within the boxing profession regulations in 31 V.S.A. Ch. 21, which is under the purview of OPR. H.289 proposes to move the boxing regulations to 26 V.S.A. and create two subchapters, one for boxing, which would not change, and one new subchapter for mixed martial arts (MMA). Within the MMA subchapter would be new fees and an event tax that would all largely track with the existing boxing fees. The proposed fees are as follows:

1. Promoter license \$500 initial/\$500 biennial renewal
2. Contestant license \$25 initial/\$25 annual renewal
3. Participant license \$25 initial/\$25 biennial renewal
4. Event license \$250

In addition to the fees, a 5% event tax would be established for MMA events. This tax would be on all event proceeds less event costs and federal/state taxes. All fee and tax proceeds under this new subchapter of 26 V.S.A. would be deposited in the Professional Regulatory Fee fund.

There are currently no active licensees in the boxing profession based on a query of the licensee search function on the OPR website. A search of the VISION accounting system shows that less than \$2,000 total has been collected from boxing fees since FY2016. It is unlikely that the new subchapter regulating the MMA profession would be a significant source of new revenues from fees/taxes.

Impact: less than \$5,000 annually