

Office of Regulatory Management
Economic Review Form

Agency name	Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	18VAC120-40
VAC Chapter title(s)	Virginia Professional Boxing and Wrestling Events Regulations
Action title	Repeal of Boxing 2nd Weigh-In Requirement
Date this document prepared	November 19, 2024
Regulatory Stage (including Issuance of Guidance Documents)	Fast-Track (Action 6654 / Stage 10590)

Cost Benefit Analysis

Complete Tables 1a and 1b for all regulatory actions. You do not need to complete Table 1c if the regulatory action is required by state statute or federal statute or regulation and leaves no discretion in its implementation.

Table 1a should provide analysis for the regulatory approach you are taking. Table 1b should provide analysis for the approach of leaving the current regulations intact (i.e., no further change is implemented). Table 1c should provide analysis for at least one alternative approach. You should not limit yourself to one alternative, however, and can add additional charts as needed.

Report both direct and indirect costs and benefits that can be monetized in Boxes 1 and 2. Report direct and indirect costs and benefits that cannot be monetized in Box 4. See the ORM Regulatory Economic Analysis Manual for additional guidance.

Table 1a: Costs and Benefits of the Proposed Changes (Primary Option)

<p>(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)</p>	<p>Section 18VAC120-40-295.E of the Event Licensing and Conduct Standards for Boxing in the regulation provides that boxers who weigh-in 24 hours prior to a scheduled boxing event must re-weigh two (2) hours prior to the event’s scheduled start time and will not be permitted to exceed the weight specified in the contract by more than 10 pounds.</p> <p>This action proposes repealing the requirement for boxers to re-weigh two (2) hours prior to the scheduled start time for a boxing event when the weigh-in occurs 24 hours prior to the event start time.</p> <p>If the 2nd weigh-in requirement is removed, then boxers can gain more than 10 lbs. of the contract weight and rehydrate to their normal weight.</p> <p>Some boxers believe if they dehydrate, they will have increased performance, but in reality, it is the opposite.</p> <p>While it has been suggested that rehydration can rapidly restore muscular performance after drying-out, the speed at which the brain is rehydrated is not known. Judging from some of the catastrophes in the ring, we may assume that it takes longer than 24hr. Weakness and cerebral dehydration will undoubtedly increase the risk of injury in the ring; if the athlete makes it that far. In 1998, three American college wrestlers died from the effects of dehydration before they even got on the mat.</p> <p>Direct Costs: There are no monetizable direct costs associated with this change.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no monetizable indirect costs associated with this change.</p> <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxers, promoters, and DPOR staff will not have to make an extra trip to and from the weigh-in/event location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2023, there were seven (7) boxing events with a total of 96 boxers. An average of about 14 boxers per event must attend a 2nd weigh-in. ○ The promoter and at least one DPOR staff person must attend each 2nd weigh-in. ○ A total of 16 people must travel to attend the 2nd weigh-in. ○ The average fuel cost for a round trip to the 2nd weigh-in is about \$3.00¹.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number of persons who must attend the 2nd weigh-in (assuming no carpooling) x average fuel cost: about \$48.00 per event. ○ Average fuel cost per event x number of events: \$336 per year. <p>Indirect Benefits: There are no monetizable indirect benefits associated with this change.</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) \$0 (over five years)	(b) \$1,585 (over five years)
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	\$1,585 (over five years)	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	<p>Costs: There are no new non-monetizable costs associated with this change.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boxers will have the ability to rehydrate and eat to gain more than 10 lbs. of the contract weight; many boxers will gain as much as 15 lbs. or more; be healthier, have more cerebral hydration, and possibly fewer concussions. (Direct.) ● Bouts are less likely to be cancelled, so fighters and promoters will not lose money, and the public will not be disappointed by cancelled fights. (Indirect.) 	
(5) Information Sources	<p>¹Estimated cost of boxer, promoters, and DPOR staff driving morning of the event to 2nd weigh in: Example: 10 miles to weigh-in; car gets 23 mpg; gas costs \$3.29 gallon = \$2.86 per car to travel 20 miles.</p> <p>John Dennen. "The Risks and Rewards of Drying Out." <i>Boxing News</i>, 19 December 2014</p>	

Table 1b: Costs and Benefits under the Status Quo (No change to the regulation)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: There are no additional monetizable direct costs associated with maintaining the status quo.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no additional monetizable indirect costs associated with maintaining the status quo.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: There are no additional monetizable direct benefits associated with maintaining the status quo.</p>
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	Indirect Benefits: There are no additional monetizable indirect benefits associated with maintaining the status quo.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) \$0	(b) \$0
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	\$0	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	<p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opponents in a boxing bout are likely to be very close in weight at the time of the bout. (Direct.) <p>Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxers that participate in events in Virginia are at risk of suffering brain injuries due to lack of proper hydration.¹ (Direct.) • Keeping the current requirement in place risks cancellation of bouts or renegotiation of contracts. (Indirect.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the last 12 months, 3-4 bouts have been cancelled and 15-20 bouts have had to renegotiate contracts due to weight variances. The 2nd weigh-in can affect the fighter's purse (money the fighter receives for the bout) if the contract is renegotiated. ○ The cancellation of bouts results in lost money for boxers and promoters. ○ The cancellation of bouts results in disappointed spectators. • At this time, most big-name promotions will not bring boxing events to Virginia because of the current requirement in the regulation due to the associated health risks it creates for boxers. (Indirect.) 	
(5) Information Sources	<p>¹ John Dennen. "The Risks and Rewards of Drying Out." <i>Boxing News</i>, 19 December 2014</p> <p>²Estimated cost of boxer, promoters, and DPOR staff driving morning of the event to 2nd weigh in: Example: 10 miles to weigh-in; car gets 23 mpg; gas costs \$3.29 gallon = \$2.86 per car to travel 20 miles</p>	

Table 1c: Costs and Benefits under Alternative Approach(es)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs &	Refer to Box #4.
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Benefits (Monetized)		
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	N/A	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	No less intrusive or less costly alternatives to achieve the purpose of the regulatory change were identified.	
(5) Information Sources	N/A	

Impact on Local Partners

Use this chart to describe impacts on local partners. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 2: Impact on Local Partners

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	See Box #3.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) \$0	(b) \$0
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	The proposed change is not anticipated to impose any direct or indirect costs on local partners.	
(4) Assistance	N/A	
(5) Information Sources	N/A	

Impacts on Families

Use this chart to describe impacts on families. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 3: Impact on Families

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	See Box #3.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	There are no anticipated direct or indirect costs to families. There are no anticipated direct or indirect benefits to families.	
(4) Information Sources	N/A	

Impacts on Small Businesses

Use this chart to describe impacts on small businesses. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 4: Impact on Small Businesses

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	See Box #3.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) /N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	<p>Some boxing event licenses, including promoter licenses, are issued to firms. Some of these firms may fall within the meaning of “small business” in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia. In addition, to the extent that individuals who receive licenses may be considered independent contractors, such individuals may fall within the meaning of small business.</p> <p>The costs and benefits of this regulatory change are identified in Table 1(a). To the extent that any costs or benefits are assumed by small business entities, this regulatory change would impact small businesses.</p>	
(4) Alternatives	No less intrusive or less costly alternatives to achieve the purpose of the regulatory change were identified.	

(5) Information Sources	N/A
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Changes to Number of Regulatory Requirements

Table 5: Regulatory Reduction

For each individual action, please fill out the appropriate chart to reflect any change in regulatory requirements, costs, regulatory stringency, or the overall length of any guidance documents.

Change in Regulatory Requirements

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Authority of Change	Initial Count	Additions	Subtractions	Total Net Change in Requirements
40-295	(M/A):	0	0	0	0
	(D/A):	0	0	0	0
	(M/R):	0	0	0	0
	(D/R):	28	0	2	-2
Grand Total of Changes in Requirements:					(M/A): 0 (D/A): 0 (M/R): 0 (D/R): -2

Key:

Please use the following coding if change is mandatory or discretionary and whether it affects externally regulated parties or only the agency itself:

(M/A): Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting the agency itself

(D/A): Discretionary requirements affecting agency itself

(M/R): Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting external parties, including other agencies

(D/R): Discretionary requirements affecting external parties, including other agencies

Cost Reductions or Increases (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Requirement	Initial Cost	New Cost	Overall Cost Savings/Increases
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other Decreases or Increases in Regulatory Stringency (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Change	Overview of How It Reduces or Increases Regulatory Burden
N/A	N/A	N/A

Length of Guidance Documents (only applicable if guidance document is being revised)

Title of Guidance Document	Original Length	New Length	Net Change in Length
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*If the agency is modifying a guidance document that has regulatory requirements, it should report any change in requirements in the appropriate chart(s).