

HB 1424 -- ATHLETE AGENTS

SPONSOR: Stefanick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 16 to 0.

This bill requires all athlete agents operating in this state to be registered and certified by the Division of Professional Registration. Fees for registration and renewal will be set by the division and deposited into the Athlete Agent Fund, which is created by the bill. Registration and certification are valid for a two-year period and may be renewed indefinitely. The division director may refuse to issue a certificate or may suspend or revoke a certificate because of the following circumstances:

- (1) The applicant has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude;
- (2) The applicant made false statements on the application;
- (3) The applicant has had a similar license suspended or revoked in another state; or
- (4) The applicant has caused a student-athlete to be suspended from or to be ineligible for any interscholastic or intercollegiate athletic event.

The bill requires all contracts between agents and athletes to be written and contain certain information, including the basis for the agent's fee and a notice warning the student-athlete about the possible loss of eligibility.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Up to \$14,481 in FY 2005, \$0 in FY 2006, and \$0 in FY 2007. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is needed to protect the student athlete. It is very important to have a regulatory authority to provide oversight to this profession. Currently, the Secretary of State's Office has no authority to set qualifications or to investigate and enforce violations made by athlete agents. Any person wishing to be an agent can be registered just by paying a registration fee.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Stefanick; Office of Secretary of State; and University of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst