

Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: October 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Theatrical Wrestling Regulation Amendment Act of 2026

REFERENCE: Bill 26-26, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 28, 2026

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Under District law and regulations, independent professional wrestling events are subject to the same regulatory requirements as competitive combat sports, including boxing, kickboxing, mixed martial arts, and major professional wrestling (such as WWE and AEW). Independent wrestling events are much smaller in scale than multimillion-dollar major professional wrestling productions. Complying with regulatory requirements meant for larger productions has been a challenge for local independent wrestling ventures.¹

The bill creates² a distinction under District law between smaller independent wrestling events, combat sports, and major professional wrestling events. Specifically, the bill:

¹ Bailey, Camila (2023, March 10). D.C. was a haven for marginalized pro wrestlers until the city's sports commission regulated it to death. Washington City Paper.
<https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/594359/d-c-was-a-haven-for-marginalized-pro-wrestlers-until-the-citys-sports-commission-regulated-it-to-death/>

² By amending The Boxing and Wrestling Commission Act of 1975, effective October 8, 1975 (D.C. Official Code § 3-601 et seq., D.C. Law 1-20).

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Theatrical Wrestling Regulation Amendment Act of 2026," Bill 26-26, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 28, 2026

- Creates a defined term, theatrical wrestling, as an event in which two or more participants engage in a performance of mock combat for entertainment, with a predetermined outcome, choreographed performances, and an event capacity of under 2,000;
- Expands the D.C. Combat Sports Commission's (Commission) jurisdiction to include theatrical wrestling;
- Requires the Commission to distinguish the appropriate level of regulation of an event and distinguish between professional and amateur events, and the size of venues;
- Requires the Commission to issue rules regarding theatrical wrestling within 180 days of the bill's enactment; and,
- Permits the Commission to exempt theatrical wrestling events and similar amateur events from its rules upon proper application by the manager or promoter of an event.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Commission already regulates theatrical wrestling events in the District of Columbia. Distinguishing between what events are considered theatrical wrestling, professional wrestling, and combat sports does not have a cost. The Commission, with administrative support from the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, can establish rules to implement the bill without additional resources.