

**148.590 Kentucky Sports Authority -- Membership -- Chairperson -- Executive director -- Functions.**

- (1) There is created the Kentucky Sports Authority, which shall be attached to the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, Office of the Secretary, for administrative purposes.
- (2) The authority shall consist of fifteen (15) members, including the Lieutenant Governor, the secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, the secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet, and twelve (12) members appointed by the Governor. The members appointed by the Governor shall include representatives of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, the fish and wildlife community, and the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission.
- (3) The Lieutenant Governor shall serve as chairperson of the authority. Members shall elect other officers as they deem necessary. Of the members initially appointed by the Governor, one-third (1/3) shall serve a term of four (4) years, one-third (1/3) shall serve a term of three (3) years, and one-third (1/3) shall serve a term of two (2) years. All succeeding terms shall be for four (4) years.
- (4) The secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet shall appoint an executive director, with the prior written approval of the Governor, to head the authority. The cabinet shall provide additional administrative support to the authority from the cabinet's existing staff as necessary.
- (5) The authority shall meet no less than biannually and at other times as necessary, upon the call of the chairperson. Members shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in performing the authority's duties, functions, and responsibilities.
- (6) The authority's primary responsibility shall be to recruit, promote, assist, place, and develop sporting events, facilities, attractions, and programs in the Commonwealth, with the ultimate goal of developing commerce, the economy, job opportunities, and revenue streams. The authority's duties shall include but not be limited to the following:
  - (a) Lead efforts to attract national and regional sporting events to Kentucky by working with national, regional, and local sporting organizations;
  - (b) Work with communities to recruit professional franchises and develop an overall strategic plan to recruit and retain all forms of professional and amateur sporting events to Kentucky;
  - (c) Collaborate with communities to identify and propose improvements for sporting activity infrastructure, including opportunities for private and public partnership on infrastructure development; present for the Governor's approval any financial plan that would require state tax dollars to build new athletic facilities; and upon the Governor's approval of a proposed financial plan, present it to the General Assembly;
  - (d) Foster relationships between sporting event organizers and event sponsors, and between and among state agencies, and provide advice and direction for increasing the number and quality of sporting events;
  - (e) Evaluate various sports and sports-related activities and entities and make written recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly if additional regulation, licensing, or taxing are necessary;

- (f) Collaborate with communities and Kentucky athletes to develop programs to promote youth wellness and awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle; and
- (g) Develop and recommend to the Governor, as necessary, legislation and administrative regulations to further the purposes of the authority, including but not limited to the recruitment and maintenance of professional and amateur sporting events, the facilitation of sporting participation by Kentucky's citizens, the safe and ethical operation of sporting events, and the fiscal impact of sporting events in the Commonwealth.

**Effective:** June 29, 2017

**History:** Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 70, sec. 22, effective June 29, 2017. -- Amended 2010 Ky. Acts ch. 24, sec. 138, effective July 15, 2010; and ch. 44, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2010. -- Amended 2009 Ky. Acts ch. 16, sec. 24, effective June 25, 2009. -- Created 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 1, effective June 20, 2005.

**Legislative Research Commission Note** (6/20/2005). Although 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 1, contains a reference to the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Commission, the entity created by 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, which confirms Executive Order 2005-002, is the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Authority. In accordance with 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 11, sec. 23, the reference in subsection (2) of this statute has been changed.