

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTING GATHERINGS FOR CERTAIN SPORTING EVENTS

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House Bill 6315 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Joe Tate
Committee: Ways and Means
Complete to 11-4-20

SUMMARY:

House Bill 6315 would amend the Public Health Code to exempt college and professional sporting events from certain public health emergency orders that prohibit public gatherings. An emergency order could instead prescribe specified limits on the occupancy of the venue where an event was held.

Currently under the Public Health Code, if the director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) determines it necessary to protect the public health by controlling an epidemic, he or she can issue an emergency order that prohibits people from gathering and can establish procedures that must be followed during the epidemic to ensure the continuation of essential public health services and the enforcement of health laws.

The bill would prohibit the director from issuing an order that keeps people from gathering for a *professional or collegiate sporting event* held at an *entertainment venue*. However, the director could limit the occupancy of the venue at which an event was held to the lesser of 20% capacity or 12,500 spectators.

Professional or collegiate sporting event would include any of the following:

- A game or match sanctioned by a major professional league or the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) consisting of U.S. or Canadian teams for baseball, basketball, football, ice hockey, or soccer.
- A motorsports race and its ancillary activities that have been sanctioned by the American Motorcycle Association (AMA); Auto Racing Club of America (ARCA); Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART); Grand American Road Racing Association (GRAND AM); Indy Racing League (IRL); National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR); National Hot Rod Association (NHRA); Professional Sportscar Racing (PSR); Sports Car Club of America (SCCA); United States Auto Club (USAC); Michigan State Promoters Association; or any successor organization or any other nationally or internationally recognized governing body of motorsports that establishes an annual schedule of motorsports events and grants rights to conduct the events, that has established and administers rules and regulations governing all participants involved in the events and all persons conducting the events, and that requires certain liability assurances, including insurance.

- A soccer match between two international soccer clubs as part of a tournament sanctioned by the governing body for soccer in the United States.

Entertainment venue would mean a facility primarily used for sporting events or other entertainment.

MCL 333.2253

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 6315 has no direct significant fiscal implications for DHHS. The fiscal impact for local health departments, authorized by the Public Health Code to carry out and enforce emergency orders of the DHHS director, is indeterminate.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.