

Criminal Justice

AB 47 – Prohibiting certain felons from teaching martial arts to minors. Rep. Schneider

Summary of Bill:

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 47](#) – AB 47 prohibits a person from providing martial arts instruction to a minor for a fee without a license granted by the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL). AB 47 defines "martial arts instruction" as instruction in self-defense or combat, but not instruction in the use of a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow.

AB 47 would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to conduct a criminal background check on a person who applies for such an instructional license. DRL must grant a license to an applicant who pays a fee, if DRL determines that the applicant has not been convicted of certain disqualifying offenses specified in the bill, including certain violent crimes, crimes against children, and drug crimes.

Fiscal Effect:

[Department of Justice](#)

DOJ assumes that the criminal history searches required by AB 47 will be subject to the current criminal history search fee CIB charges to cover its costs. As a result, DOJ does not anticipate a fiscal impact due to the enactment of AB 47.

[Department of Regulation and Licensing](#)

AB 47 would have no fiscal impact on the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

Supporters Message:

- Rep. Schneider introduced this legislation following an incident in his district where a convicted felon was found to have had illicit contact with a minor.
- Rep. Schneider contends that due to not only the close physical interaction between instructor and student, but the intense mental training as well, AB 47 is necessary to protect minors involved in martial arts instruction.
- **Johnny should not be allowed to sweep the leg.**

Opponents Message:

- AB 47 creates further government regulation and fee requirement upon a private sector business where there have not been widespread reports or outcry for such changes.
- **If you're going to let some washed-up bike repairman be your sensei, you're going to need more than AB 47 to protect you.**

Key Supporters:

Representative Marlin Schneider (author). The Milwaukee Police Association and Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association registered in support with the Ethics Board.

Key Opponents:

No one testified or registered against AB 47, and no one registered against it with the Ethics Board.

Committee Vote:

On April 16, 2009, the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice recommended passage of AB 47 on a vote of 9-0. [Reps. Staskunas and Soletski were absent]

Ranking Member Author of Bill Summary

Daniel Lindstedt; Office of Rep. Joel Kleefisch (6-8551)