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AN ACT

RELATING TO ATHLETIC COMPETITION; AMENDING AND ENACTING
SECTIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL ATHLETIC COMPETITION ACT; ADDING
DEFINITIONS; ADDING AND INCREASING FEES; ADDING WEIGHT
CLASSES; REQUIRING STATE CHAMPIONS; EXTENDING THE TERMINATION
DATES OF THE PROFESSIONAL ATHLETIC COMPETITION ACT AND THE
NEW MEXICO ATHLETIC COMMISSION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 60-2A-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,
Chapter 90, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"60-2A-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Professional
Athletic Competition Act:

A. "board" means the medical advisory board;

B. "closed circuit telecast" means a telecast that
is not intended to be available for viewing without the
payment of a fee, including a pay-per-view telecast, podcast,
webcast, streaming media or any electronic transmission to an
arena, bar, lounge, club, entertainment or meeting center or
private residence;

C. "commission" means the New Mexico athletic
commission;

D. "contestant" means a person who engages in
unarmed combat for remuneration;

E. "department" means the regulation and licensing

1 department;

2 F. "exhibition" means any contest or portion of a
3 fight card, bout or event in any form of unarmed combat
4 regulated by the commission and conducted, held or televised
5 on a closed circuit telecast originating in New Mexico;

6 G. "foreign co-promoter" means a promoter who has
7 no place of business in this state;

8 H. "manager":

9 (1) means a person who:

10 (a) undertakes to represent the
11 interests of another person by contract, agreement or other
12 arrangement in procuring, arranging or conducting a
13 professional contest or exhibition in which the represented
14 person will participate as a contestant;

15 (b) directs or controls the activities
16 of an unarmed combatant relating to the participation of the
17 unarmed combatant in professional contests or exhibitions;

18 (c) receives or is entitled to receive
19 at least ten percent of the gross purse or gross income of
20 any professional unarmed combatant for services relating to
21 the participation of the unarmed combatant in a professional
22 contest or exhibition; or

23 (d) receives compensation for services
24 as an agent or representative of an unarmed combatant; and

25 (2) does not include an attorney who is

1 licensed to practice law in this state if the attorney's
2 participation in any of the activities described in
3 Paragraph (1) of this subsection is limited solely to the
4 legal representation of a client who is an unarmed combatant;

5 I. "professional boxer" means an individual who
6 competes for money, prizes or purses or who teaches, pursues
7 or assists in the practice of boxing as a means of obtaining
8 a livelihood or pecuniary gain;

9 J. "professional contest" means any professional
10 boxing, professional kickboxing, professional martial arts,
11 professional mixed martial arts or sports entertainment
12 wrestling contest or exhibition, whether or not an admission
13 fee is charged for admission of the public;

14 K. "professional kickboxer" means an individual
15 who competes for money, prizes or purses or who teaches,
16 pursues or assists in the practice of kickboxing as a means
17 of obtaining a livelihood or pecuniary gain;

18 L. "professional martial artist" means an
19 individual who competes for money, prizes or purses or who
20 teaches, pursues or assists in the practice of martial arts
21 as a means of obtaining a livelihood or pecuniary gain;

22 M. "professional mixed martial artist" means an
23 individual who competes for money, prizes or purses or who
24 teaches, pursues or assists in the practice of mixed martial
25 arts as a means of obtaining a livelihood or pecuniary gain;

1 N. "promoter" means any person, and in the case of
2 a corporate promoter includes any officer, director or
3 stockholder of the corporation, who produces or stages any
4 professional boxing, professional kickboxing, professional
5 martial arts, professional mixed martial arts or sports
6 entertainment wrestling contest, exhibition or closed circuit
7 television show;

8 O. "purse" means the financial guarantee or any
9 other remuneration, or part thereof, for which professional
10 boxers, professional kickboxers, professional martial
11 artists, professional mixed martial artists or sports
12 entertainment wrestlers are participating in a contest or
13 exhibition and includes the participant's share of any
14 payment received for radio broadcasting, television or motion
15 picture rights;

16 P. "ring official" means any person who performs
17 an official function during the progress of a contest or
18 exhibition;

19 Q. "sports entertainment wrestler" means an
20 individual who competes for money, prizes or purses or who
21 teaches, pursues or assists in the practice of sports
22 entertainment wrestling as a means of obtaining a livelihood
23 or pecuniary gain;

24 R. "sports entertainment wrestling" means an
25 activity in which participants struggle hand-to-hand

1 primarily for the purpose of providing entertainment to
2 spectators rather than conducting a bona fide athletic
3 contest;

4 S. "unarmed combat" means boxing, kickboxing,
5 martial arts, mixed martial arts, sports entertainment
6 wrestling or any form of competition in which a blow is
7 usually struck that may reasonably be expected to inflict
8 injury; and

9 T. "unarmed combatant" means:

10 (1) a person who engages in unarmed combat
11 in a contest or exhibition, whether or not the person
12 receives remuneration, including a boxer, kickboxer, martial
13 artist, mixed martial artist, sports entertainment wrestler
14 or other contestant; or

15 (2) an amateur boxer who is registered with
16 United States amateur boxing, incorporated, or any other
17 amateur organization recognized by the commission and
18 participates in an amateur boxing contest or exhibition in
19 the state that is registered and sanctioned by United States
20 amateur boxing, incorporated or golden gloves of America."

21 SECTION 2. Section 60-2A-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,
22 Chapter 90, Section 7) is amended to read:

23 "60-2A-7. MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD.--

24 A. There is created the "medical advisory board"
25 to assist the commission.

1 B. The board shall consist of three members to be
2 appointed by the commission. Each member of the board shall
3 be licensed to practice medicine in this state and shall have
4 had at the time of appointment at least five years'
5 experience in the practice of the member's profession.
6 Members of the board shall serve without compensation.

7 C. The board shall:

8 (1) prepare and submit to the commission for
9 its approval standards for the physical and mental
10 examination of professional boxers, professional kickboxers,
11 professional martial artists, professional mixed martial
12 artists or sports entertainment wrestlers that shall
13 safeguard their health; provided no standard shall become
14 effective until approved by the commission;

15 (2) recommend to the commission for
16 licensing purposes physicians who are qualified to make
17 examinations of professional boxers, professional kickboxers,
18 professional martial artists, professional mixed martial
19 artists or sports entertainment wrestlers; and

20 (3) upon request of the commission, advise
21 the commission as to the physical and mental fitness of any
22 individual professional boxer, professional kickboxer,
23 professional martial artist, professional mixed martial
24 artist or sports entertainment wrestler."

1 Chapter 90, Section 10) is amended to read:

2 "60-2A-10. LICENSES FOR PROMOTERS, BOXERS, TRAINERS,
3 RING OFFICIALS AND OTHERS.--

4 A. All promoters, foreign co-promoters,
5 matchmakers, professional boxers, professional kickboxers,
6 professional martial artists, professional mixed martial
7 artists, sports entertainment wrestlers, managers, seconds,
8 announcers, referees, trainers, booking agents and
9 timekeepers shall be licensed by the commission.

10 B. No person shall be permitted to participate
11 either directly or indirectly in any professional contest
12 unless the person has first procured a license from the
13 commission.

14 C. Any person violating the provisions of this
15 section is guilty of a petty misdemeanor."

16 SECTION 4. Section 60-2A-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,
17 Chapter 90, Section 12, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "60-2A-12. LICENSE FEES.--

19 A. The annual license fee shall not exceed the
20 following amounts:

- 21 (1) promoters \$500.00
- 22 (2) foreign co-promoters 750.00
- 23 (3) referees 75.00
- 24 (4) timekeepers and announcers 75.00
- 25 (5) seconds and trainers 75.00

- 1 (6) managers 75.00
- 2 (7) professional boxers 75.00
- 3 (8) professional kickboxers 75.00
- 4 (9) booking agents 75.00
- 5 (10) matchmakers 75.00
- 6 (11) judges 75.00
- 7 (12) professional mixed martial artists 75.00
- 8 (13) amateur mixed martial artists . . 75.00
- 9 (14) professional martial artists . . 75.00
- 10 (15) sports entertainment wrestlers . . 75.00.

11 Every license shall expire at midnight on December 31 of
12 the year in which the license is issued.

13 B. An unarmed combatant may hold a professional
14 license in one commission licensing category while
15 maintaining amateur status in other unarmed combat
16 disciplines."

17 SECTION 5. Section 60-2A-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,
18 Chapter 90, Section 16) is amended to read:

19 "60-2A-16. CONTRACTS.--

20 A. Every professional boxer, professional
21 kickboxer, professional martial artist, professional mixed
22 martial artist or sports entertainment wrestler competing in
23 a professional contest is entitled to receive a copy of a
24 written contract or agreement, approved as to form by the
25 commission, binding a licensee to pay the professional boxer,

1 professional kickboxer, professional martial artist,
2 professional mixed martial artist or sports entertainment
3 wrestler a certain fixed fee or percentage of the gate
4 receipts.

5 B. One copy of the contract or agreement shall be
6 filed with the executive secretary of the commission, and one
7 copy shall be retained by the licensee or promoter of the
8 professional contest."

9 SECTION 6. Section 60-2A-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,
10 Chapter 90, Section 17) is amended to read:

11 "60-2A-17. INSURANCE.--

12 A. The commission may by rule require insurance
13 coverage for each licensed professional boxer, professional
14 kickboxer, professional martial artist, professional mixed
15 martial artist or sports entertainment wrestler to provide
16 for medical, surgical and hospital care for injuries
17 sustained while preparing for or engaged in a professional
18 contest, in an amount of two thousand five hundred dollars
19 (\$2,500) or more payable to the boxer, kickboxer, martial
20 artist, mixed martial artist or sports entertainment wrestler
21 as beneficiary.

22 B. In lieu of or in addition to the insurance
23 provided for in Subsection A of this section, the commission
24 may establish a voluntary injury fund in the state treasury
25 to provide for the medical care of a professional boxer,

1 professional kickboxer, professional martial artist,
2 professional mixed martial artist or sports entertainment
3 wrestler injured in the course of a professional contest.
4 The fund shall consist solely of voluntary contributions by
5 promoters equal to two percent of the gross receipts of the
6 professional contest. The funds may be expended upon
7 vouchers signed by the chair of the commission and warrants
8 drawn by the secretary of finance and administration."

9 SECTION 7. Section 60-2A-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,
10 Chapter 90, Section 19) is amended to read:

11 "60-2A-19. WITHHOLDING OF PURSE.--

12 A. The commission or its executive secretary may
13 order a promoter to withhold a part of a purse or other funds
14 belonging or payable to a contestant, manager or second if,
15 in the judgment of the commission or the executive secretary,
16 the contestant is not competing honestly or to the best of
17 the contestant's skill and ability or if the manager or
18 second has violated any of the provisions of the Professional
19 Athletic Competition Act or a rule promulgated under that
20 act.

21 B. This section does not apply to any sports
22 entertainment wrestler who appears not to be competing
23 honestly or to the best of the wrestler's skill and ability.

24 C. Upon the withholding of a part of a purse
25 pursuant to this section, the commission shall immediately

1 schedule a hearing on the matter as promptly as possible. If
2 it is determined that the contestant, manager or second is
3 not entitled to a part of a share of the purse or other
4 funds, the promoter shall turn that money over to the
5 commission, and it shall become forfeit to the state and be
6 disposed of as are fees."

7 SECTION 8. Section 60-2A-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,
8 Chapter 90, Section 21) is amended to read:

9 "60-2A-21. LENGTH OF PROFESSIONAL CONTESTS--ROUNDS.--No
10 professional boxing contest shall be more than fifteen rounds
11 in length, and each round shall not exceed three minutes in
12 length. There shall be a one-minute rest between rounds.
13 The commission shall adopt rules governing the length of
14 professional kickboxing, professional martial arts,
15 professional mixed martial arts and sports entertainment
16 wrestling contests, duration of rounds and the period of rest
17 between rounds."

18 SECTION 9. A new section of the Professional Athletic
19 Competition Act is enacted to read:

20 "WEIGHT LIMITS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP PROFESSIONAL BOXING
21 CONTESTS.--State championships are recognized in fourteen
22 classes; the classes for professional boxers and the maximum
23 weights for each class are:

- 24 A. junior flyweight: one hundred eight pounds;
25 B. flyweight: one hundred twelve pounds;

- 1 C. bantamweight: one hundred eighteen pounds;
2 D. junior featherweight: one hundred twenty-two
3 pounds;
4 E. featherweight: one hundred twenty-six pounds;
5 F. junior lightweight: one hundred thirty pounds;
6 G. lightweight: one hundred thirty-five pounds;
7 H. junior welterweight: one hundred forty pounds;
8 I. welterweight: one hundred forty-seven pounds;
9 J. junior middleweight: one hundred fifty-four
10 pounds;
11 K. middleweight: one hundred sixty pounds;
12 L. light heavyweight: one hundred seventy-five
13 pounds;
14 M. cruiserweight: one hundred ninety pounds; and
15 N. heavyweight: no maximum weight for any
16 contestant."

17 SECTION 10. A new section of the Professional Athletic
18 Competition Act is enacted to read:

19 "PROFESSIONAL BOXING STATE CHAMPIONS AND RANKED
20 CONTENDERS.--

21 A. The commission shall declare a state champion
22 professional boxer in each weight class.

23 B. At least two times per year, the commission
24 shall publish a list of professional boxing top ten ranked
25 contenders in each weight class.

1 C. The professional boxing state champion shall
2 defend the championship title within six months of winning
3 the title and every six months thereafter against a
4 challenger in the champion's own weight class. If the
5 champion does not defend the title or cannot defend the title
6 for physical reasons that are permanent, the commission shall
7 forfeit the championship and declare the title vacant. In
8 the case of a champion not defending a title within six
9 months due to illness or injury that is not permanent, the
10 champion shall submit to the commission a physician's report
11 describing the illness or injury and an estimated time when
12 the champion will be able to defend the championship title.
13 It will be at the discretion of the commission, after
14 considering the physician's report, whether a stay of the
15 six-month title defense requirement will be permitted."

16 SECTION 11. Section 60-2A-30 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
17 1980, Chapter 90, Section 30, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "60-2A-30. TERMINATION OF AGENCY LIFE--DELAYED
19 REPEAL.--The New Mexico athletic commission is terminated on
20 July 1, 2029 pursuant to the Sunset Act. The commission shall
21 continue to operate according to the provisions of the
22 Professional Athletic Competition Act until July 1, 2030.
23 Effective July 1, 2030, Chapter 60, Article 2A NMSA 1978 is
24 repealed." _____
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