

1 S.154

2 Introduced by Senator White

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Recreation and sports; mixed martial arts

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to regulate mixed martial arts
7 matches.

8 An act relating to mixed martial arts

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. 31 V.S.A. chapter 21 is amended to read:

11 CHAPTER 21. BOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

12 § 1101. DEFINITIONS

13 As used in this chapter:

14 (1) "Boxer" means an individual who participates in a boxing match.

15 (2) "Boxing match" or "match" means a contest or training exhibition
16 for a prize or purse where an admission fee is charged and where individuals
17 score points by striking the head and upper torso of an opponent with padded
18 fists. An amateur boxing match is a match held under the supervision of a
19 school, college, or university or under the supervision of United States
20 Amateur Boxing, Inc. or its successor as the ~~nationally designated~~ nationally

1 designated governing body for amateur boxing. All other matches shall be
2 considered professional boxing matches.

3 (3) "Director" means the director of the office of professional
4 regulation.

5 (4) "Disciplinary action" includes any action by the administrative law
6 officer appointed under ~~section 3 V.S.A. § 129 of Title 3~~, premised upon a
7 finding of wrongdoing. It includes all sanctions of any kind, denying,
8 suspending, revoking, issuing warnings, and other sanctions.

9 (5) "Manager" means a person who receives compensation for service
10 as an agent or representative of a professional boxer or mixed martial artist.

11 (6) "National boxer registry" means an entity certified by the
12 Association of Boxing Commissions for the purpose of maintaining records for
13 the identification of professional boxers and for tracking their records and
14 suspensions.

15 (7) "Participant" means managers, seconds, referees, and judges in a
16 professional boxing match or mixed martial arts match.

17 (8) "Promoter" means a person that organizes, holds, advertises, or
18 otherwise conducts a professional boxing match or mixed martial arts match.

19 (9) "Mixed martial arts" means unarmed combat involving the use of a
20 combination of techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts,
21 including grappling, kicking, and striking.

1 (10) “Mixed martial arts match” means a match or exhibition in which a
2 mixed martial arts contestant competes with another mixed martial arts
3 contestant for a prize or purse and an admission fee is charged.

4 § 1102. DIRECTOR; POWERS; DUTIES

5 (a) The director shall have jurisdiction over professional boxing matches
6 and mixed martial arts matches. The director’s power to supervise
7 professional boxing matches and mixed martial arts matches includes the
8 power to suspend a match immediately if there is a serious and immediate
9 danger to the public, boxers, mixed martial arts contestants, promoters, or
10 participants.

11 (b) Except as provided in this subsection, the director shall not have
12 jurisdiction over amateur boxing matches or mixed martial arts matches.
13 Amateur boxing matches shall be conducted according to the rules of United
14 States Amateur Boxing, Inc., the national governing body for amateur boxing
15 of the United States Olympic Committee or its successor as the
16 nationally designated nationally designated governing body for amateur
17 boxing. However, upon a finding that the health and safety of the boxers and
18 participants in an amateur match are not being sufficiently safeguarded, the
19 director shall assume jurisdiction over and supervisory responsibility for the
20 match. The director’s decision may be appealed to the administrative law
21 officer appointed under ~~section 3 V.S.A. § 129 of Title 3~~ within 10 days of the

1 date the finding is issued. If the director assumes jurisdiction under this
2 subsection, the match shall continue to be conducted in accordance with the
3 rules of United States Amateur Boxing, Inc.

4 (c) The director shall:

5 (1) provide information to applicants for registration;

6 (2) administer fees collected under this chapter;

7 (3) explain appeal procedures to registrants and applicants and
8 complaint procedures to the public;

9 (4) receive applications for registration, grant registration under this
10 chapter, renew registrations and deny, revoke, suspend, reinstate, or condition
11 registrations as directed by an administrative law officer;

12 (5) refer all complaints and disciplinary matters to an administrative law
13 officer appointed under ~~section 3~~ V.S.A. § 129 of Title 3.

14 (d) The director may adopt rules necessary to perform his or her duties
15 under this chapter. The uniform rules of the Association of Boxing
16 Commissions as adopted on June 6, 1998, and as amended from time to time,
17 shall apply to professional boxing matches conducted under this chapter to the
18 extent those rules address matters not covered by rules adopted by the director.

19 § 1103. ADVISOR APPOINTEES

20 (a) The secretary of state shall appoint two persons to serve as advisors in
21 matters related to boxing and mixed martial arts. One advisor shall be a person

1 with at least three years' experience with boxing or mixed martial arts, and one
2 shall be a medical doctor. The advisor appointees shall be appointed for
3 staggered five-year terms and shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary.

4 (b) The director shall seek the advice of the advisors appointed under this
5 section in carrying out the provisions of this chapter. The advisors shall be
6 entitled to compensation and necessary expenses in the amount provided in
7 ~~section 32 V.S.A. § 1010 of Title 32~~ for attendance at any meeting called by
8 the director for this purpose.

9 (c) For purposes of the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1995, as
10 amended, the director and the advisor appointees shall be deemed to be the
11 Vermont state boxing commission.

12 * * *

13 § 1105. PROMOTERS; REGISTRATION; BOND REQUIREMENT

14 (a) A person shall not act as a promoter in this state unless he or she is
15 registered with the office of professional regulation. The application shall be
16 made on forms provided by the director and shall be filed at least 14 days prior
17 to the date of the intended professional boxing match or mixed martial arts
18 match.

19 (b) Each application shall be accompanied by a surety or cash bond in the
20 amount of \$5,000.00, payable to the state of Vermont, together with proof of
21 medical insurance covering the boxers or mixed martial arts contestants for

1 injuries sustained during the match. The bond or surety shall be conditioned
2 upon the faithful performance by the promoter of the provisions of this chapter,
3 the fulfillment of the promoter's contractual obligations with the boxers and
4 participants and subject to the payment of any fees or penalties imposed by this
5 chapter.

6 (c) Each application shall contain a list of the boxers, mixed martial arts
7 contestants, and participants, along with each boxer's personal identification
8 number assigned by the national boxer registry.

9 * * *

10 § 1108. MATCHES; SPECIAL PROVISIONS

11 (a) The director shall designate one or more individuals who shall act as
12 boxing inspectors for professional boxing matches, inspectors for mixed
13 martial arts matches, and, at the discretion of the director, at amateur boxing
14 matches to ~~insure~~ ensure that boxing or mixed martial arts laws and rules are
15 strictly observed. ~~Boxing inspectors~~ Inspectors shall have all the powers of the
16 director with regard to regulation of a match. Inspectors shall have free access
17 to the dressing rooms of the boxers and shall be present at the weigh-in.

18 (b) Before a professional match, the promoter shall insure that each boxer
19 or mixed martial arts contestant is examined by a physician licensed in this
20 state for the purpose of certifying that the boxer or contestant is physically fit
21 to compete safely. Copies of the physician's certificate shall be filed with the

1 director prior to the match. In addition, at any time prior to a professional
2 match, the director may require that a boxer or contestant undergo a physical
3 examination, which may include neurological tests and procedures.

4 (c) A physician approved by the director must be continuously present at
5 ringside during every professional boxing match and mixed martial arts match
6 to observe the physical condition of the boxers and mixed martial arts
7 contestants. The physician shall advise the referee on the condition of the
8 boxers and contestants.

9 (d) The promoter shall insure that an ambulance and medical personnel,
10 with appropriate resuscitation equipment, are continuously present at the site
11 during a professional boxing match or mixed martial arts match.

12 § 1109. FEES

13 (a) Applicants and persons regulated by this chapter shall be subject to the
14 following fees:

15	(1) Promoter registration	\$500.00
16	(2) Boxer <u>or mixed martial arts contestant</u> registration	\$ 25.00
17	(3) Manager registration	\$ 25.00
18	(4) Second registration	\$ 25.00
19	(5) Referee registration	\$ 25.00
20	(6) Judge registration	\$ 25.00

1 (b) After hearing, and upon a finding of wrongdoing, the administrative
2 law officer appointed under ~~subsection 3~~ V.S.A. § 129(j) of Title 3 may take
3 disciplinary action against a registrant or an applicant.

4 § 1113. TAX ON PROFESSIONAL BOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL
5 ARTS CONTESTS

6 Any person holding or conducting a professional boxing match or mixed
7 martial arts match shall notify the director not less than five days in advance of
8 the holding of the match, and after the match is concluded shall immediately
9 pay to the director a sum, designated as a gate tax, which shall be an amount
10 equal to five percent of the gross receipts, exclusive of any federal tax thereon.
11 Gate tax shall be deposited in the professional regulatory fee fund and used to
12 carry out the provisions of this chapter. Payments required by this section
13 shall be accompanied by reports in the form required by the director. All
14 tickets of admission to a professional boxing match or mixed martial arts
15 match shall bear clearly the purchase price on the face of the ticket.