



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5127

February Session, 2006

* HB05127GL 041106 *

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF BOXING AND WRESTLING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 21a-195a of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) There is established the Connecticut [Boxing Promotion] Athletic
4 Commission which shall be within the Department of [Consumer
5 Protection for administrative purposes only] Public Safety. The
6 commission shall consist of nine members, three to be appointed by
7 the Governor, one to be appointed by the speaker of the House of
8 Representatives, one to be appointed by the president pro tempore of
9 the Senate, one to be appointed by the majority leader of the House of
10 Representatives, one to be appointed by the majority leader of the
11 Senate, one to be appointed by the minority leader of the House of
12 Representatives and one to be appointed by the minority leader of the
13 Senate. The initial appointments to the commission shall be made not
14 later than November 1, 1998. Notwithstanding the provisions of
15 subsection (c) of section 4-9a, as amended, the terms of each member of
16 the commission shall be coterminous with the term of the appointing
17 authority or until a successor is chosen, whichever is later. The
18 appointing authority shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired portion of
19 the term. Members of the commission shall receive no compensation

20 for their services. The commission shall hold at least one meeting each
21 quarter.

22 (b) The commission shall make recommendations to the Governor,
23 the Commissioner of [Consumer Protection, the Commissioner of
24 Economic and Community Development] Public Safety and the
25 General Assembly, upon the request thereof or at such time or times as
26 the commission may determine, to encourage, develop and promote
27 the [sport] sports of boxing and wrestling in this state. Such
28 recommendations shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Identifying
29 any legal or administrative impediments to the development of the
30 [sport] sports of boxing and wrestling in this state; (2) identifying ways
31 to improve state and local services designed to support and promote
32 boxing and wrestling; (3) identifying ways of developing young boxers
33 and wrestlers through amateur boxing and wrestling clubs and other
34 programs; [and] (4) developing strategies to assist promoters of small-
35 scale professional boxing and wrestling events and to aid in the
36 development of a market for large-scale professional boxing and
37 wrestling events in this state; and (5) developing ways to protect the
38 health and safety of participants in boxing and wrestling.

39 Sec. 2. Section 21a-196 of the general statutes is repealed and the
40 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

41 (a) As used in this chapter, "commissioner" means the
42 Commissioner of [Consumer Protection] Public Safety and "wrestling"
43 does not include the following styles of wrestling: Scholastic and
44 collegiate, folk style, Olympic or International, practicing free-style or
45 Greco-Roman.

46 (b) The commissioner shall have sole control of and jurisdiction over
47 all amateur and professional boxing and sparring matches and
48 wrestling exhibitions held, conducted or given within the state by any
49 person or persons, club, corporation or association, except amateur
50 boxing and sparring matches [or wrestling exhibitions] held under the
51 supervision of any school, college or university having an academic

52 course of study or of the recognized athletic association connected
53 with such school, college or university or amateur boxing and sparring
54 matches and wrestling exhibitions held under the auspices of any
55 amateur athletic association or other organization or association that
56 has been determined by the commissioner to be capable of ensuring
57 the health and safety of the participants; provided the commissioner
58 may at any time assume jurisdiction over any amateur boxing match
59 or wrestling exhibition if the commissioner determines that the health
60 and safety of the participants is not being sufficiently safeguarded. The
61 commissioner may appoint inspectors who shall, on the order of the
62 commissioner, represent the commissioner at all boxing matches and
63 wrestling exhibitions. The commissioner may appoint a secretary who
64 shall prepare for service such notices and papers as may be required
65 and perform such other duties as the commissioner directs.

66 (c) The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized
67 representative may: (1) Issue subpoenas to any person involved in any
68 matter under investigation pursuant to this chapter; (2) subpoena
69 documentary material relating to any such matter; (3) administer an
70 oath or affirmation to any person; or (4) conduct hearings in aid of any
71 such investigation, provided none of the powers conferred by this
72 chapter shall be used for the purpose of compelling any natural person
73 to furnish testimony or evidence which might tend to incriminate the
74 person or subject the person to a penalty or forfeiture. If any person
75 fails or refuses to obey any such subpoena, the commissioner, after
76 giving notice, may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of
77 Hartford which court, after a hearing, may issue an order requiring
78 such person to obey such subpoena or any part of such subpoena. Any
79 disobedience of a final order of any court under this section shall be
80 punished as contempt.

81 (d) The commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Athletic
82 Commission, shall adopt such regulations in accordance with chapter
83 54 as the commissioner deems necessary and desirable for the conduct,
84 supervision and safety of boxing and wrestling matches, including the
85 licensing of the sponsors and the participants of such [boxing]

86 matches, and for the development and promotion of the [sport] sports
87 of boxing and wrestling in this state, including, but not limited to,
88 regulations to improve the competitiveness of the [sport] sports of
89 boxing and wrestling in this state relative to other states and
90 regulations to protect the health and safety of participants. Such
91 regulations shall require fees for the issuance of licenses to such
92 sponsors and participants as follows: (1) For referees, a fee of not less
93 than sixty-three dollars; (2) for matchmakers and assistant
94 matchmakers, a fee of not less than sixty-three dollars; (3) for
95 timekeepers, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars; (4) for professional
96 boxers and wrestlers, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars; (5) for
97 amateur boxers and wrestlers, a fee of not less than three dollars; (6)
98 for managers, a fee of not less than sixty-three dollars; (7) for trainers, a
99 fee of not less than thirteen dollars; (8) for seconds, a fee of not less
100 than thirteen dollars; (9) for announcers, a fee of not less than thirteen
101 dollars; and (10) for promoters, a fee of not less than two hundred fifty
102 dollars.

103 (e) No organization, gymnasium or independent club shall host a
104 sparring match unless such organization, gymnasium or independent
105 club registers with the Department of Public Safety in accordance with
106 this subsection. The commissioner shall register any organization,
107 gymnasium or independent club that the commissioner deems
108 qualified to host such matches. Application for such registration shall
109 be made on forms provided by the department and accompanied by a
110 fee of fifty dollars. For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this
111 chapter, the commissioner or an authorized representative may inspect
112 the facility of any such organization, gymnasium or independent club.
113 The Attorney General, at the request of the Commissioner of Public
114 Safety, may apply in the name of the state of Connecticut to the
115 Superior Court for an order temporarily or permanently restraining
116 any organization, gymnasium or independent club from operating in
117 violation of any provision of this chapter or the regulations adopted
118 pursuant to this subsection. The commissioner, in consultation with
119 the Connecticut Athletic Commission shall adopt such regulations, in

120 accordance with chapter 54, as the commissioner deems necessary for
121 the conduct, supervision and safety of sparring matches.

122 [(e)] (f) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the
123 commissioner, may enter into a contract with any person for the
124 services of such person acting as an inspector appointed in accordance
125 with the provisions of this section.

126 [(f)] (g) The commissioner may disallow the conduct of any
127 professional wrestling exhibition if the commissioner determines that
128 the health and safety of the participants is not being sufficiently
129 safeguarded.

130 Sec. 3. Section 21a-198 of the general statutes is repealed and the
131 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

132 (a) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, issue a
133 license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or wrestling match to any
134 person, persons, club, corporation or association. Before any such
135 license is granted, the applicant shall execute and file with the
136 commissioner a bond in such amount and form and with such surety
137 as is determined by the commissioner, which bond shall be
138 conditioned for the payment of the tax imposed by section 21a-199.
139 Upon the filing and approval of such bond, the commissioner shall
140 issue to such applicant a certificate of such filing and approval. No
141 license shall be issued under this section until such bond is filed.

142 (b) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, revoke
143 any license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or wrestling match
144 issued under this section for cause as provided in this chapter or in any
145 regulation adopted under this chapter in accordance with chapter 54.

146 Sec. 4. Section 21a-203a of the general statutes is repealed and the
147 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

148 The commissioner shall select the referees for any boxing match or
149 wrestling exhibition conducted, held or given within this state, except

150 amateur boxing exhibitions held under the supervision of any school,
151 college or university having an academic course of study or of the
152 recognized athletic association connected with such school, college or
153 university or amateur boxing or wrestling exhibitions held under the
154 auspices of any amateur athletic association that has been determined
155 by the commissioner to be capable of ensuring the health and safety of
156 the participants. All such referees shall be licensed by the
157 commissioner under this chapter and the regulations adopted by the
158 commissioner under this chapter, in accordance with chapter 54.

159 Sec. 5. Section 21a-205 of the general statutes is repealed and the
160 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

161 (a) No person shall engage in any boxing or wrestling match as a
162 boxer or wrestler until such person has been examined and found to be
163 physically fit by a competent physician approved by the
164 commissioner, licensed to practice under the laws of this state and in
165 practice in this state for at least two years. Such physician shall be
166 appointed by the commissioner and shall be in attendance throughout
167 the boxing or wrestling match for which such examination was made.
168 Such physician shall certify, in writing, that the contestant is physically
169 fit to engage in such [boxing] match. Any fee for such physician, as
170 determined by the commissioner, shall be paid by the person or club,
171 corporation or association conducting such [boxing] match.

172 (b) The cost of any physical examination required by this chapter or
173 regulations adopted under this chapter, other than an examination
174 required by subsection (a) of this section, may be assessed by the
175 commissioner on any boxer or wrestler examined by a physician
176 appointed by the commissioner or on the person, club, corporation or
177 association conducting the next [boxing] match in which the contestant
178 is scheduled to compete.

179 Sec. 6. Subdivision (14) of section 21a-6 of the general statutes is
180 repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2006*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-195a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-196
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-198
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-203a
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	21a-205
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	Repealer section

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

GAE *Joint Favorable*

GL *Joint Favorable*