



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Raised Bill No. 1007**

LCO No. 3903

\*03903\_\_\_\_\_PS\_\*

Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***AN ACT REGULATING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS MATCHES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-143j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

3 (a) As used in this chapter, "commissioner" means the  
4 Commissioner of Public Safety and "mixed martial arts" means  
5 unarmed combat involving the use of a combination of techniques  
6 from different disciplines of the martial arts and includes grappling,  
7 kicking, jujitsu and striking.

8 (b) The commissioner shall have sole control of and jurisdiction over  
9 all amateur and professional boxing and sparring and all professional  
10 mixed martial arts matches held, conducted or given within the state  
11 by any person or persons, club, corporation or association, except  
12 amateur boxing and sparring matches held under the supervision of  
13 any school, college or university having an academic course of study  
14 or of the recognized athletic association connected with such school,  
15 college or university or amateur boxing and sparring matches held  
16 under the auspices of any amateur athletic association that has been

17 determined by the commissioner to be capable of ensuring the health  
18 and safety of the participants; provided the commissioner may at any  
19 time assume jurisdiction over any amateur boxing or sparring match if  
20 the commissioner determines that the health and safety of the  
21 participants is not being sufficiently safeguarded. The commissioner  
22 may appoint inspectors who shall, on the order of the commissioner,  
23 represent the commissioner at all boxing or mixed martial arts  
24 matches. The commissioner may appoint a secretary who shall prepare  
25 for service such notices and papers as may be required and perform  
26 such other duties as the commissioner directs.

27 (c) The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized  
28 representative may cause a full investigation to be made of the location  
29 of, and paraphernalia and equipment to be used in any boxing, [or]  
30 sparring or mixed martial arts match and all other matters and shall  
31 determine whether or not such match will be reasonably safe for the  
32 participants and for public attendance and may make reasonable  
33 orders concerning alterations or betterments to the equipment and  
34 paraphernalia, and concerning the character and arrangement of the  
35 seating, means of egress, lighting, firefighting appliances, fire and  
36 police protection and such other provisions as shall make the match  
37 reasonably safe against both fire and casualty hazards.

38 (d) When any serious physical injury, as defined in subdivision (4)  
39 of section 53a-3, or death occurs in connection with a boxing, [or]  
40 sparring or mixed martial arts match, the owner of the location of the  
41 match shall, not later than four hours after such occurrence, report the  
42 injury or death to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee.  
43 Not later than four hours after receipt of such report, the commissioner  
44 or the commissioner's designee shall cause an investigation of the  
45 occurrence to determine the cause of such serious physical injury or  
46 death. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may enter  
47 into any place or upon any premises so registered or licensed in  
48 furtherance of such investigation and inspection.

49 (e) The commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Boxing  
50 Commission, shall adopt such regulations in accordance with chapter  
51 54 as the commissioner deems necessary and desirable for the conduct,  
52 supervision and safety of boxing matches, including the licensing of  
53 the sponsors and the participants of such boxing matches, and for the  
54 development and promotion of the sport of boxing in this state,  
55 including, but not limited to, regulations to improve the  
56 competitiveness of the sport of boxing in this state relative to other  
57 states. Such regulations shall require fees for the issuance of licenses to  
58 such sponsors and participants as follows: (1) For referees, a fee of not  
59 less than sixty-three dollars; (2) for matchmakers and assistant  
60 matchmakers, a fee of not less than sixty-three dollars; (3) for  
61 timekeepers, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars; (4) for professional  
62 boxers, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars; (5) for amateur boxers, a  
63 fee of not less than three dollars; (6) for managers, a fee of not less than  
64 sixty-three dollars; (7) for trainers, a fee of not less than thirteen  
65 dollars; (8) for seconds, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars; (9) for  
66 announcers, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars; and (10) for  
67 promoters, a fee of not less than two hundred fifty dollars.

68 (f) No organization, gymnasium or independent club shall host a  
69 sparring or mixed martial arts match unless such organization,  
70 gymnasium or independent club registers with the Department of  
71 Public Safety in accordance with this subsection. The commissioner  
72 shall register any organization, gymnasium or independent club that  
73 the commissioner deems qualified to host such matches. Application  
74 for such registration shall be made on forms provided by the  
75 department and accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars. For the purpose  
76 of enforcing the provisions of this chapter, the commissioner or an  
77 authorized representative may inspect the facility of any such  
78 organization, gymnasium or independent club. The Attorney General,  
79 at the request of the Commissioner of Public Safety, may apply in the  
80 name of the state of Connecticut to the Superior Court for an order  
81 temporarily or permanently restraining any organization, gymnasium  
82 or independent club from operating in violation of any provision of

83 this chapter or the regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection.  
84 The commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Boxing  
85 Commission, shall adopt such regulations, in accordance with chapter  
86 54, as the commissioner deems necessary for the conduct, supervision  
87 and safety of sparring matches.

88 (g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with  
89 the provisions of chapter 54, as the commissioner deems necessary to  
90 regulate the conduct, supervision and safety of mixed martial arts  
91 matches, including the licensing of sponsors and participants of such  
92 matches, and to set a reasonable fee for the issuance of licenses to  
93 sponsors, combatants and participants in mixed martial arts matches.

94 [(g)] (h) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the  
95 commissioner, may enter into a contract with any person for the  
96 services of such person acting as an inspector appointed in accordance  
97 with the provisions of this section.

98 Sec. 2. Section 29-143l of the general statutes is repealed and the  
99 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

100 (a) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, issue a  
101 license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or mixed martial arts match  
102 to any person, persons, club, corporation or association. Before any  
103 such license is granted, the applicant shall execute and file with the  
104 commissioner a bond in such amount and form and with such surety  
105 as is determined by the commissioner, which bond shall be  
106 conditioned for the payment of the tax imposed by section 29-143m, as  
107 amended by this act. Upon the filing and approval of such bond, the  
108 commissioner shall issue to such applicant a certificate of such filing  
109 and approval. No license shall be issued under this section until such  
110 bond is filed.

111 (b) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, revoke  
112 any license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or mixed martial arts  
113 match issued under this section for cause as provided in this chapter or

114 in any regulation adopted under this chapter in accordance with  
115 chapter 54.

116 Sec. 3. Section 29-143m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
117 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

118 Any person or combination of persons who, and any club,  
119 corporation or association which, holds or promotes any boxing or  
120 mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition or exercises any of the  
121 privileges conferred by this chapter or the regulations adopted under  
122 this chapter shall, within twenty-four hours after the determination of  
123 each boxing or mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition: (1)  
124 Furnish to the commissioner a written report verified by such person  
125 or combination of persons or by the treasurer and secretary of such  
126 club, corporation or association, which report shall include a statement  
127 of the number of tickets sold for such match or exhibition, the amount  
128 of gross receipts for such match or exhibition and such other  
129 information as the commissioner prescribes; and (2) pay to the  
130 commissioner a tax of five per cent of the total receipts after federal  
131 taxes have been deducted from the paid admissions to such boxing or  
132 mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition, which tax shall be  
133 paid into the State Treasury.

134 Sec. 4. Section 29-143n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
135 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

136 If any person or combination of persons, club, corporation or  
137 association fails to make a report of any [contest] match or exhibition  
138 as required by section 29-143m, as amended by this act, within the time  
139 prescribed by section 29-143m, as amended by this act, or if any such  
140 report fails to include sufficient information, the commissioner may  
141 examine, or cause to be examined, the books and records of any such  
142 person or combination of persons, club, corporation or association and  
143 subpoena and examine under oath such person or officers of such club,  
144 corporation or association and other persons for the purpose of  
145 determining the total amount of such gross receipts and the amount of

146 tax due pursuant to the provisions of section 29-143m, as amended by  
147 this act, which tax [he] the commissioner may thereupon fix and  
148 determine. In case of default in the payment of any tax ascertained by  
149 the commissioner to be due and the expenses incurred in making such  
150 examination, for a period of twenty days after notice to such  
151 delinquent person or combination of persons, club, corporation or  
152 association, such delinquent shall forfeit the license issued under  
153 section 29-143l, as amended by this act, and shall be disqualified from  
154 receiving any new license under section 29-143l, as amended by this  
155 act. Such delinquent shall also forfeit to the state the sum of five  
156 hundred dollars.

157 Sec. 5. Section 29-143o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
158 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

159 Any person who, and the officers of any club, corporation or  
160 association which, sells or causes to be sold any ticket of admission for  
161 any boxing or mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition in  
162 excess of the seating capacity of the room, hall, place, building or  
163 structure used for such boxing or mixed martial arts match or  
164 wrestling exhibition, shall, for the first offense, be fined not more than  
165 two hundred dollars, which shall be paid to the state. For a subsequent  
166 offense, the club, corporation, association or person or persons shall  
167 forfeit its, his or their license issued under section 29-143l, as amended  
168 by this act, shall be disqualified from receiving any new license issued  
169 under section 29-143l, as amended by this act, and shall forfeit to the  
170 state the sum of five hundred dollars. The officers of any such club,  
171 corporation or association, for such subsequent offense, shall be fined  
172 not more than two hundred dollars.

173 Sec. 6. Section 29-143p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
174 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

175 The price of admission and of the seats to any boxing or mixed  
176 martial arts match conducted under the provisions of this chapter shall  
177 be published in a newspaper published and circulated in the town, city

178 or borough where such [boxing] match is to be conducted, if any  
179 newspaper is published in such town, city or borough, but, if no  
180 newspaper is published in such town, city or borough, such  
181 publication shall be made in a newspaper having a substantial  
182 circulation in such town, city or borough. Any such publication shall  
183 be made in at least three separate editions of such paper and in a space  
184 not less than two inches by three inches in size.

185 Sec. 7. Section 29-143q of the general statutes is repealed and the  
186 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

187 (a) No boxing match shall consist of more than twelve rounds and  
188 each round shall be no longer than three minutes nor less than two  
189 minutes in duration. In all matches, if a contestant who has been  
190 knocked down arises before the count of ten seconds, the referee shall  
191 complete a count of eight seconds and assure himself that the  
192 contestant is fit to continue. The referee may, in the referee's discretion,  
193 order a standing knockdown and a mandatory eight count if a  
194 contestant is taking a severe beating and is apparently defenseless but  
195 is not knocked down. The standing knockdown shall be treated in all  
196 respects, including scoring, as a knockdown.

197 (b) No mixed martial arts match shall consist of more than five  
198 rounds, with each round to be followed by a period of rest of not less  
199 than one minute.

200 (c) No boxing or mixed martial arts match shall be conducted unless  
201 a referee approved by the commissioner is in attendance and directs  
202 and controls the boxing or mixed martial arts match.

203 Sec. 8. Section 29-143r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
204 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

205 The commissioner shall select the referees for any boxing  
206 [exhibition] or mixed martial arts match conducted, held or given  
207 within this state, except amateur boxing [exhibitions] matches held

208 under the supervision of any school, college or university having an  
209 academic course of study or of the recognized athletic association  
210 connected with such school, college or university or amateur boxing  
211 [exhibitions] matches held under the auspices of any amateur athletic  
212 association that has been determined by the commissioner to be  
213 capable of ensuring the health and safety of the participants. All such  
214 referees shall be licensed by the commissioner under this chapter and  
215 the regulations adopted by the commissioner under this chapter, in  
216 accordance with chapter 54.

217 Sec. 9. Section 29-143s of the general statutes is repealed and the  
218 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

219 No boxing or mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition shall  
220 be held on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day or Veterans'  
221 Day.

222 Sec. 10. Section 29-143t of the general statutes is repealed and the  
223 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

224 (a) No person shall engage in any boxing match as a boxer or in any  
225 mixed martial arts match as a combatant until such person has been  
226 examined and found to be physically fit by a competent physician  
227 approved by the commissioner, licensed to practice under the laws of  
228 this state and in practice in this state for at least two years. Such  
229 physician shall be appointed by the commissioner and shall be in  
230 attendance throughout the boxing or mixed martial arts match for  
231 which such examination was made. Such physician shall certify, in  
232 writing, that the contestant is physically fit to engage in such boxing or  
233 mixed martial arts match. Any fee for such physician, as determined  
234 by the commissioner, shall be paid by the person or club, corporation  
235 or association conducting such boxing or mixed martial arts match.

236 (b) The cost of any physical examination required by this chapter or  
237 regulations adopted under this chapter, other than an examination  
238 required by subsection (a) of this section, may be assessed by the

239 commissioner on any boxer or combatant examined by a physician  
240 appointed by the commissioner or on the person, club, corporation or  
241 association conducting the next boxing or mixed martial arts match in  
242 which the contestant is scheduled to compete.

243 Sec. 11. Section 29-143u of the general statutes is repealed and the  
244 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

245 Any person acting as principal, manager, second, promoter or  
246 matchmaker receiving or accepting, directly or indirectly, any money  
247 or other valuable thing from any boxer or combatant for any special  
248 privilege or for discriminating in any manner relating to any boxing or  
249 mixed martial arts match shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in  
250 section 29-143z.

251 Sec. 12. Section 29-143v of the general statutes is repealed and the  
252 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

253 No person under eighteen years of age shall engage in any  
254 professional boxing or mixed martial arts match or wrestling  
255 exhibition and no person under sixteen years of age shall engage in  
256 any amateur boxing match or amateur wrestling exhibition except a  
257 match or exhibition held under the supervision of a school, college or  
258 university having an academic course of study or the athletic  
259 association connected with such school, college or university or held  
260 under the auspices of any amateur athletic association that has been  
261 determined by the commissioner, under section 29-143j, as amended  
262 by this act, to be capable of ensuring the health and safety of the  
263 participants.

264 Sec. 13. Section 29-143w of the general statutes is repealed and the  
265 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

266 No person shall bet or wager upon the result of any boxing or  
267 mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition.

268 Sec. 14. Section 29-143x of the general statutes is repealed and the

269 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

270 No person under eighteen years of age shall be admitted to any  
271 professional boxing or mixed martial arts exhibition, provided any  
272 person fourteen years of age or over may be admitted when  
273 accompanied by [his] such person's parent or guardian.

274 Sec. 15. Section 29-143y of the general statutes is repealed and the  
275 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

276 No license shall be issued under section 29-143l, as amended by this  
277 act, to conduct, hold or give any boxing or mixed martial arts match in  
278 any town, city or borough which has adopted any ordinance  
279 prohibiting boxing or mixed martial arts matches within its limits.

280 Sec. 16. Section 53-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
281 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

282 Any person who is principal or second in any prize fight in this  
283 state shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more  
284 than one thousand dollars or both. A contest in which blows are struck  
285 which are intended or calculated to stun, disable or knock out either of  
286 the contestants, or in which either contestant is counted out or  
287 otherwise declared defeated because of failure to resume the contest  
288 within a certain time, shall be deemed a prize fight within the meaning  
289 of this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to boxing  
290 exhibitions held or conducted under the laws of this state, or to  
291 wrestling bouts or amateur boxing exhibitions held under the  
292 provisions of section 29-143j, as amended by this act, or under the  
293 supervision of any school, college or university having an academic  
294 course of study or of the recognized athletic association connected  
295 with such school, college or university, or to any mixed martial arts  
296 match held or conducted under chapter 532a.

297 Sec. 17. Section 53-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
298 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

299 Any person who is present at any prize fight, to aid, abet or assist  
 300 therein, or give countenance thereto, or who aids or encourages such  
 301 fight in this state, without being present thereat, shall be imprisoned  
 302 not more than two years or fined not more than five hundred dollars  
 303 or both. The provisions of this section shall not apply to boxing  
 304 exhibitions held or conducted under the laws of this state, or to  
 305 wrestling bouts, or to amateur boxing exhibitions held under the  
 306 provisions of section 29-143j, as amended by this act, or the  
 307 supervision of any school, college or university having an academic  
 308 course of study or of the recognized athletic association connected  
 309 with such school, college or university, or to any mixed martial arts  
 310 match held or conducted under chapter 532a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143j
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143l
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143m
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143n
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143o
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143p
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143q
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143r
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143s
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143t
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143u
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143v
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143w
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143x
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	29-143y
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	53-200
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	53-201

**Statement of Purpose:**

To permit professional mixed martial arts matches to be held in the state and to subject such matches to the same regulation that currently applies to boxing matches, including giving the Commissioner of

Public Safety regulatory authority over such matches, requiring the registration of hosts of such a match, requiring a license to conduct such a match, imposing a tax upon the receipts of any such match and other safety requirements.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*