



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5269**

January Session, 2011

\* \_\_\_\_\_HB05269PS\_\_\_\_\_030211\_\_\_\_\_\*

**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 Section 29-143j of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, 2011*):

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 one hundred twenty-six dollars; (2) for matchmakers and  
60 assistant matchmakers, a fee of not less than one hundred twenty-six  
61 dollars; (3) for timekeepers, a fee of not less than twenty-six dollars; (4)  
62 for professional boxers, a fee of not less than twenty-six dollars; (5) for  
63 amateur boxers, a fee of not less than fifteen dollars; (6) for managers, a  
64 fee of not less than one hundred twenty-six dollars; (7) for trainers, a  
65 fee of not less than twenty-six dollars; (8) for seconds, a fee of not less  
66 than twenty-six dollars; (9) for announcers, a fee of not less than  
67 twenty-six dollars; and (10) for promoters, a fee of not less than three  
68 hundred fifteen dollars.

69 (f) No organization, gymnasium or independent club shall host a  
70 sparring or mixed martial arts match unless such organization,  
71 gymnasium or independent club registers with the Department of  
72 Public Safety in accordance with this subsection. The commissioner  
73 shall register any organization, gymnasium or independent club that  
74 the commissioner deems qualified to host such matches. Application  
75 for such registration shall be made on forms provided by the  
76 department and accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars. For the  
77 purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter, the commissioner  
78 or an authorized representative may inspect the facility of any such  
79 organization, gymnasium or independent club. The Attorney General,  
80 at the request of the Commissioner of Public Safety, may apply in the  
81 name of the state of Connecticut to the Superior Court for an order  
82 temporarily or permanently restraining any organization, gymnasium  
83 or independent club from operating in violation of any provision of  
84 this chapter or the regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection.  
85 The commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Boxing  
86 Commission, shall adopt such regulations, in accordance with chapter  
87 54, as the commissioner deems necessary for the conduct, supervision

88 and safety of sparring matches.

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

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

99 Sec. 2. Section 29-143l of the general statutes is repealed and the  
100 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

112 (b) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, revoke  
113 any license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or mixed martial arts  
114 match issued under this section for cause as provided in this chapter or  
115 in any regulation adopted under this chapter in accordance with  
116 chapter 54.

117 Sec. 3. Section 29-143m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

135 Sec. 4. Section 29-143n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
136 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

137 If any person or combination of persons, club, corporation or  
138 association fails to make a report of any [contest] match or exhibition  
139 as required by section 29-143m, as amended by this act, within the time  
140 prescribed by section 29-143m, as amended by this act, or if any such  
141 report fails to include sufficient information, the commissioner may  
142 examine, or cause to be examined, the books and records of any such  
143 person or combination of persons, club, corporation or association and  
144 subpoena and examine under oath such person or officers of such club,  
145 corporation or association and other persons for the purpose of  
146 determining the total amount of such gross receipts and the amount of  
147 tax due pursuant to the provisions of section 29-143m, as amended by  
148 this act, which tax [he] the commissioner may thereupon fix and  
149 determine. In case of default in the payment of any tax ascertained by  
150 the commissioner to be due and the expenses incurred in making such  
151 examination, for a period of twenty days after notice to such  
152 delinquent person or combination of persons, club, corporation or

153 association, such delinquent shall forfeit the license issued under  
154 section 29-143l, as amended by this act, and shall be disqualified from  
155 receiving any new license under section 29-143l, as amended by this  
156 act. Such delinquent shall also forfeit to the state the sum of five  
157 hundred dollars.

158 Sec. 5. Section 29-143o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
159 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

174 Sec. 6. Section 29-143p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
175 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

176 The price of admission and of the seats to any boxing or mixed  
177 martial arts match conducted under the provisions of this chapter shall  
178 be published in a newspaper published and circulated in the town, city  
179 or borough where such [boxing] match is to be conducted, if any  
180 newspaper is published in such town, city or borough, but, if no  
181 newspaper is published in such town, city or borough, such  
182 publication shall be made in a newspaper having a substantial  
183 circulation in such town, city or borough. Any such publication shall  
184 be made in at least three separate editions of such paper and in a space

185 not less than two inches by three inches in size.

186 Sec. 7. Section 29-143q of the general statutes is repealed and the  
187 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

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

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

204 Sec. 8. Section 29-143r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
205 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

206 The commissioner shall select the referees for any boxing  
207 [exhibition] or mixed martial arts match conducted, held or given  
208 within this state, except amateur boxing [exhibitions] matches held  
209 under the supervision of any school, college or university having an  
210 academic course of study or of the recognized athletic association  
211 connected with such school, college or university or amateur boxing  
212 [exhibitions] matches held under the auspices of any amateur athletic  
213 association that has been determined by the commissioner to be  
214 capable of ensuring the health and safety of the participants. All such  
215 referees shall be licensed by the commissioner under this chapter and

216 the regulations adopted by the commissioner under this chapter, in  
217 accordance with chapter 54.

218 Sec. 9. Section 29-143s of the general statutes is repealed and the  
219 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

223 Sec. 10. Section 29-143t of the general statutes is repealed and the  
224 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

238 (b) The cost of any physical examination required by this chapter or  
239 regulations adopted under this chapter, other than an examination  
240 required by subsection (a) of this section, may be assessed by the  
241 commissioner on any boxer or combatant examined by a physician  
242 appointed by the commissioner or on the person, club, corporation or  
243 association conducting the next boxing or mixed martial arts match in  
244 which the [contestant] boxer or combatant is scheduled to compete.

245 Sec. 11. Section 29-143u of the general statutes is repealed and the  
246 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

253 Sec. 12. Section 29-143v of the general statutes is repealed and the  
254 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

266 Sec. 13. Section 29-143w of the general statutes is repealed and the  
267 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

270 Sec. 14. Section 29-143x of the general statutes is repealed and the  
271 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

276 Sec. 15. Section 29-143y of the general statutes is repealed and the

277 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

282 Sec. 16. Section 53-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
283 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

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

299 Sec. 17. Section 53-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
300 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

301 Any person who is present at any prize fight, to aid, abet or assist  
302 therein, or give countenance thereto, or who aids or encourages such  
303 fight in this state, without being present thereat, shall be imprisoned  
304 not more than two years or fined not more than five hundred dollars  
305 or both. The provisions of this section shall not apply to boxing  
306 exhibitions held or conducted under the laws of this state, or to  
307 wrestling bouts, or to amateur boxing [exhibitions] matches held under  
308 the provisions of section 29-143j, as amended by this act, or the

309 supervision of any school, college or university having an academic  
 310 course of study or of the recognized athletic association connected  
 311 with such school, college or university, or to any mixed martial arts  
 312 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, 2011</i>	29-143j
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143l
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143m
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143n
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143o
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143p
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143q
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143r
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143s
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143t
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143u
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143v
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143w
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143x
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	29-143y
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	53-200
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	53-201

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section (7)(b) "rest of" was added for clarity and to carry out legislative intent, in section 10 "boxer or combatant" was substituted for "contestant" for statutory consistency and in sections 11, 14, 16 and 17 "match" was substituted for "exhibition" for statutory consistency.

**PS**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*