



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 326

LCO No. 1607

01607_____PS_

Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.

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 Section 29-143j of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2012*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

84 an order temporarily or permanently restraining any organization,
85 gymnasium or independent club from operating in violation of any
86 provision of this chapter or the regulations adopted pursuant to this
87 subsection. The commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut
88 Boxing Commission, shall adopt such regulations, in accordance with
89 chapter 54, as the commissioner deems necessary for the conduct,
90 supervision and safety of sparring matches.

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

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

101 Sec. 2. Section 29-143l of the general statutes is repealed and the
102 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

114 (b) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, revoke

115 any license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or mixed martial arts
116 match issued under this section for cause as provided in this chapter or
117 in any regulation adopted under this chapter in accordance with
118 chapter 54.

119 Sec. 3. Section 29-143m of the general statutes is repealed and the
120 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

137 Sec. 4. Section 29-143n of the general statutes is repealed and the
138 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

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

160 Sec. 5. Section 29-143o of the general statutes is repealed and the
161 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

176 Sec. 6. Section 29-143p of the general statutes is repealed and the
177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

178 The price of admission and of the seats to any boxing or mixed

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

188 Sec. 7. Section 29-143q of the general statutes is repealed and the
189 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

200 (b) No mixed martial arts match shall consist of more than five
201 rounds. Each round shall be followed by a period of rest of not less
202 than one minute.

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

206 Sec. 8. Section 29-143r of the general statutes is repealed and the
207 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

208 The commissioner shall select the referees for any boxing

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

220 Sec. 9. Section 29-143s of the general statutes is repealed and the
221 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

225 Sec. 10. Section 29-143t of the general statutes is repealed and the
226 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

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

247 Sec. 11. Section 29-143u of the general statutes is repealed and the
248 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

249 Any person acting as principal, manager, second, promoter or
250 matchmaker receiving or accepting, directly or indirectly, any money
251 or other valuable thing from any boxer in a boxing match or
252 competitor in a mixed martial arts match for any special privilege or
253 for discriminating in any manner relating to any boxing or mixed
254 martial arts match shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in section
255 29-143z.

256 Sec. 12. Section 29-143v of the general statutes is repealed and the
257 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

269 Sec. 13. Section 29-143w of the general statutes is repealed and the
270 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

273 Sec. 14. Section 29-143x of the general statutes is repealed and the
274 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

279 Sec. 15. Section 29-143y of the general statutes is repealed and the
280 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

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

285 Sec. 16. Section 53-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the
286 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

287 Any person who is principal or second in any prize fight in this
288 state shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more
289 than one thousand dollars or both. A contest in which blows are struck
290 which are intended or calculated to stun, disable or knock out either of
291 the contestants, or in which either contestant is counted out or
292 otherwise declared defeated because of failure to resume the contest
293 within a certain time, shall be deemed a prize fight within the meaning
294 of this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (1)
295 boxing [exhibitions] matches held or conducted under the laws of this
296 state, [or to] (2) wrestling [bouts] exhibitions or amateur boxing
297 [exhibitions] matches held under the provisions of section 29-143j, as
298 amended by this act, or under the supervision of any school, college or
299 university having an academic course of study or of the recognized
300 athletic association connected with such school, college or university,

301 or (3) mixed martial arts matches held or conducted under chapter
 302 532a.

303 Sec. 17. Section 53-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 304 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

305 Any person who is present at any prize fight, to aid, abet or assist
 306 therein, or give countenance thereto, or who aids or encourages such
 307 fight in this state, without being present thereat, shall be imprisoned
 308 not more than two years or fined not more than five hundred dollars
 309 or both. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (1) boxing
 310 [exhibitions] matches held or conducted under the laws of this state,
 311 [or to] (2) wrestling [bouts, or to] exhibitions or amateur boxing
 312 [exhibitions] matches held under the provisions of section 29-143j, as
 313 amended by this act, or under the supervision of any school, college or
 314 university having an academic course of study or of the recognized
 315 athletic association connected with such school, college or university,
 316 or (3) mixed martial arts matches held or conducted under chapter
 317 532a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143j
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143l
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143m
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143n
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143o
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143p
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143q
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143r
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143s
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143t
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143u
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143v
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143w
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143x
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	29-143y

Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	53-200
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	53-201

Statement of Purpose:

To permit professional mixed martial arts matches to be held in the state and subject such matches to the same regulation that currently applies to boxing matches, including giving the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection regulatory authority over such matches, requiring the licensing of the sponsors of and participants in such matches, imposing a tax upon the receipts of such matches and requiring compliance with 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.]