



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 394**

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 5277

*House of Representatives, April 8, 2013*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***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 Section 29-143j of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, 2013*):

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 amateur and professional mixed martial arts matches held, conducted  
11 or given within the state by any person or persons, club, corporation or  
12 association, except amateur boxing, [and] sparring and mixed martial  
13 arts matches held under the supervision of any school, college or

14 university having an academic course of study or of the recognized  
15 athletic association connected with such school, college or university  
16 or amateur boxing, [and] sparring and mixed martial arts matches held  
17 under the auspices of any amateur athletic association that has been  
18 determined by the commissioner to be capable of ensuring the health  
19 and safety of the participants; provided the commissioner may at any  
20 time assume jurisdiction over any amateur boxing, [or] sparring or  
21 mixed martial arts match if the commissioner determines that the  
22 health and safety of the participants is not being sufficiently  
23 safeguarded. The commissioner may appoint inspectors who shall, on  
24 the order of the commissioner, represent the commissioner at all  
25 boxing or mixed martial arts matches. The commissioner may appoint  
26 a secretary who shall prepare for service such notices and papers as  
27 may be required and perform such other duties as the commissioner  
28 directs.

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

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

48 death. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may enter  
49 into any place or upon any premises so registered or licensed in  
50 furtherance of such investigation and inspection.

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

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

82 at the request of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
83 Protection, may apply in the name of the state of Connecticut to the  
84 Superior Court for an order temporarily or permanently restraining  
85 any organization, gymnasium or independent club from operating in  
86 violation of any provision of this chapter or the regulations adopted  
87 pursuant to this subsection. The commissioner, in consultation with  
88 the Connecticut Boxing Commission, shall adopt such regulations, in  
89 accordance with chapter 54, as the commissioner deems necessary for  
90 the conduct, 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, 2013*):

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, 2013*):

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  
124 the privileges conferred by this chapter or the regulations adopted  
125 under this chapter shall, within twenty-four hours after the  
126 determination of each boxing or mixed martial arts match: [or  
127 wrestling exhibition:] (1) Furnish to the commissioner a written report  
128 verified by such person or combination of persons or by the treasurer  
129 and secretary of such club, corporation or association, which report  
130 shall include a statement of the number of tickets sold for such match, [or  
131 or exhibition,] the amount of gross receipts for such match [or  
132 exhibition] and such other information as the commissioner prescribes;  
133 and (2) pay to the commissioner a tax of five per cent of the total  
134 receipts after federal taxes have been deducted from the paid  
135 admissions to such boxing or mixed martial arts match, [or wrestling  
136 exhibition,] which tax shall be 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, 2013*):

139 If any person or combination of persons, club, corporation or  
140 association fails to make a report of any [contest] match as required by  
141 section 29-143m, as amended by this act, within the time prescribed by  
142 section 29-143m, as amended by this act, or if any such report fails to  
143 include sufficient information, the commissioner may examine, or  
144 cause to be examined, the books and records of any such person or  
145 combination of persons, club, corporation or association and subpoena  
146 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, 2013*):

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, 2013*):

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, 2013*):

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, 2013*):

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] or mixed martial

211 arts matches held under the supervision of any school, college or  
212 university having an academic course of study or of the recognized  
213 athletic association connected with such school, college or university  
214 or amateur boxing [exhibitions] or mixed martial arts matches held  
215 under the auspices of any amateur athletic association that has been  
216 determined by the commissioner to be capable of ensuring the health  
217 and safety of the participants. All such referees shall be licensed by the  
218 commissioner under this chapter and the regulations adopted by the  
219 commissioner under this chapter, in 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, 2013*):

222 No boxing or mixed martial arts match [or wrestling exhibition]  
223 shall be held on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day or  
224 Veterans' 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, 2013*):

227 (a) No person shall engage in any boxing match as a boxer or in any  
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, 2013*):

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 or mixed martial arts  
252 competitor for any special privilege or for discriminating in any  
253 manner relating to any boxing or mixed martial arts match shall be  
254 subject to the penalty prescribed in section 29-143z.

255 Sec. 12. Section 29-143v of the general statutes is repealed and the  
256 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

268 Sec. 13. Section 29-143w of the general statutes is repealed and the  
269 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

272 Sec. 14. Section 29-143x of the general statutes is repealed and the  
273 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

278 Sec. 15. Section 29-143y of the general statutes is repealed and the  
279 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

284 Sec. 16. Section 53-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
285 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

301 Sec. 17. Section 53-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
302 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

303 Any person who is present at any prize fight, to aid, abet or assist  
304 therein, or give countenance thereto, or who aids or encourages such

305 fight in this state, without being present thereat, shall be imprisoned  
 306 not more than two years or fined not more than five hundred dollars  
 307 or both. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (1)  
 308 professional boxing [exhibitions] or mixed martial arts matches held or  
 309 conducted under the laws of this state, [or to wrestling bouts, or to] or  
 310 (2) amateur boxing [exhibitions] or mixed martial arts matches held  
 311 under the provisions of section 29-143j, as amended by this act, or  
 312 under the supervision of any school, college or university having an  
 313 academic course of study or of the recognized athletic association  
 314 connected with such school, college or university.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143j
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143l
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143m
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143n
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143o
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143p
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143q
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143r
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143s
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143t
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143u
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143v
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143w
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143x
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	29-143y
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	53-200
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	53-201

**PS**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 14 \$</b>	<b>FY 15 \$</b>
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	\$40,000 - \$90,000	\$40,000 - \$90,000
Department of Revenue Services	GF - Revenue Gain	150,000-270,000	195,000-360,000

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which allows the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to regulate both amateur and professional mixed martial arts matches, would result in a cost of \$40,000 to \$90,000. The estimated cost to regulate each match is roughly \$8,000. The agency may also incur overtime and other expenses related to regulation and legal review of applications, totaling up to \$50,000 annually. The analysis assumes roughly five events annually.

The bill results in a revenue gain of \$150,000 to \$270,000 in FY 14 and \$195,000 to \$360,000 annually thereafter related to licenses, permits, and admissions tax revenue. This estimate assumes annual ticket sales will be between 20,000 and 30,000, including both professional and amateur events. The revenue gain is lower in FY 14 due to the effective date of October 2013, which is anticipated to limit the number of matches that may occur in FY 14.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5277*****AN ACT CONCERNING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill legalizes amateur and professional mixed martial arts (MMA), exempting it from the ban on prize fights, and generally subjects MMA matches to the same laws that govern professional boxing, including regulation by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), licensing, taxing, match rules, condition of fighters, age limits, and violations and penalties.

The bill defines “MMA” as unarmed combat involving techniques from different martial arts disciplines, including grappling, kicking, jujitsu, and striking.

Among other things, the bill:

1. requires MMA match promoters, referees, sponsors, and participants to be licensed by DESPP (§ 1(g), 2, & 8)
2. prohibits the DESPP commissioner from issuing a license to conduct MMA matches where prohibited by local ordinance (§ 15);
3. prohibits anyone under age 18 from engaging in MMA matches (§ 12);
4. prohibits anyone from competing in a MMA match unless certified by a doctor as physically fit (§ 10);
5. prohibits betting on MMA matches (§ 13);
6. (a) requires organizations, gymnasiums, or clubs hosting

- matches to register with DESPP and pay a \$100 registration fee (§ 1(f)) and (b) imposes a 5% tax on gross admission receipts after federal taxes have been deducted (§ 3);
7. allows the commissioner to investigate match venues for safety (§ 1(c));
  8. requires DESPP- licensed and- approved referees to be present at all MMA matches (§§ 7 & 8);
  9. prohibits MMA matches on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, and Veterans' Day (§ 9); and
  10. requires the commissioner to adopt regulations governing MMA match safety, conduct, and supervision, including establishing procedures and fees for match sponsors and participants (§ 1(g)).

The bill allows minors of any age to attend professional MMA and boxing matches as long as the minor accompanied by his or her parent or guardian (§ 14).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

## **§ 1 — JURISDICTION OVER MMA MATCHES**

### ***MMA Regulation***

With exceptions for MMA matches held under the auspices of schools or amateur athletic associations connected to schools, the bill gives the DESPP commissioner jurisdiction over amateur and professional MMA matches in Connecticut (§ 1(b)).

As is currently the case for professional boxing, (1) the commissioner may appoint inspectors to represent him at MMA matches and (2) may contract with people to serve as inspectors.

### ***Enforcement***

The bill extends to MMA matches the authority the commissioner or his representative has to investigate professional boxing matches. This

means he can investigate match location, paraphernalia, equipment, and other matters pertaining to MMA matches to determine if they will be reasonably safe for participants and attendees (§ 1(c)).

### ***Injury Reports***

The bill requires the owner of a venue where a serious physical injury or death from a MMA match occurs to report it, within four hours after the occurrence, to the commissioner or his designee, who must investigate the incident within four hours after the report (§ 1(d)).

### ***Regulations***

The bill requires the commissioner to adopt regulations governing the conduct, supervision, and safety of MMA matches, including licensing of match sponsors and participants and setting reasonable fees for such licenses (1(g)).

## **§ 2 — LICENSING**

The bill allows the commissioner to grant or deny, and revoke for cause, a license to hold or conduct MMA matches. License applicants must file a bond, which must be conditioned for the payment of the tax on gross MMA match receipts from admissions (see §§ 3 & 4 below).

## **§§ 3 & 4 — TAX PAYMENTS**

The bill imposes a 5% tax on promoters and sponsors of MMA matches and penalties for violation of the tax provision. The tax, which is on the gross receipts from admissions after federal taxes have been deducted, must be paid to the State Treasury. Failure to pay the tax may result in (1) the violator losing his license and being disqualified from getting a new license and (2) a \$500 fine. It eliminates these provisions for wrestling exhibitions.

## **§ 5 — OVERSELLING TICKET VIOLATIONS**

The bill makes it illegal to sell more MMA match tickets than there are seats at the match venue. A first violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$200. Any subsequent violation carries a \$500 fine and license forfeiture, and the violator is disqualified from receiving a new license.

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**§ 6 — PUBLICIZING TICKET PRICES**

The bill requires MMA match seat and admission prices to be published in at least three separate editions of a newspaper published and circulated in the host town, city, or borough or, if no newspaper is published in the area, in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the area.

**§§ 7, 8, & 10 — MMA MATCH RULES*****Referees and Limits on Rounds***

The bill imposes a five-round limit on MMA matches and a minimum one-minute rest period between rounds.

It prohibits matches unless a referee approved by the commissioner controls the match (§ 7).

***Referee License***

The bill requires the commissioner to select and license MMA match referees. It also requires him to select and license referees for boxing matches, instead of boxing exhibitions. As under current law for boxing exhibitions, the boxing match requirement does not apply to amateur matches held (1) under the supervision of an educational institution having an academic course of study or the recognized athletic association connected with the institution or (2) under the auspices of an amateur athletic association that the commissioner has determined can ensure participants' health and safety (§ 8).

***Physical Condition of Fighters***

The bill requires a Connecticut-licensed doctor approved by the commissioner to (1) examine and certify that match contestants are physically fit and (2) attend the entire match for which the examination is made (§ 10).

The person, club, organization, or corporation conducting the match must pay the doctor's fee.

**§ 11 — FINES**

The bill subjects to a \$200 fine a principal, manager, second,

promoter, or matchmaker who receives or takes money or other payment from any competitor in a MMA match for any special privilege or any type of discrimination relating to a match.

**§§ 12 — AGE LIMITS FOR PARTICIPANTS**

As is currently the case for professional boxing matches, the bill prohibits anyone under age 18 from participating in professional MMA matches. It also prohibits anyone under age 16 from participating in amateur MMA matches, except matches held under the:

1. supervision of (a) a school, college, or university having an academic course of study or (b) the recognized athletic association connected with the institution or
2. auspices of any amateur athletic association determined by the commissioner to be capable of ensuring the health and safety of the participants.

The bill also eliminates the 18-year minimum age requirement for participating in wrestling exhibitions.

**§ 14 — AGE LIMITS FOR ADMITTANCE TO MATCHES**

The bill prohibits anyone under age 18 from being admitted to any professional boxing or MMA match unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Under current law for professional boxing exhibitions, people under 14 cannot be admitted and people between ages 14 to 18 can only be admitted if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 20 Nay 3 (03/19/2013)