



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 5277

LCO No. 4378



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 Section 29-143j of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 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 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 match unless such organization, gymnasium or independent
72 club registers with the Department of Emergency Services and Public
73 Protection in accordance with this subsection. The commissioner shall
74 register any organization, gymnasium or independent club that the
75 commissioner deems qualified to host such matches. Application for
76 such registration shall be made on forms provided by the department
77 and accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars. For the purpose of
78 enforcing the provisions of this chapter, the commissioner or an
79 authorized representative may inspect the facility of any such
80 organization, gymnasium or independent club. The Attorney General,
81 at the request of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
82 Protection, may apply in the name of the state of Connecticut to the
83 Superior Court for an order temporarily or permanently restraining

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

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

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

100 Sec. 2. Section 29-143l of the general statutes is repealed and the
101 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

113 (b) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, revoke
114 any license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or mixed martial arts

115 match issued under this section for cause as provided in this chapter or
116 in any regulation adopted under this chapter in accordance with
117 chapter 54.

118 Sec. 3. Section 29-143m of the general statutes is repealed and the
119 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

136 Sec. 4. Section 29-143n of the general statutes is repealed and the
137 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

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

159 Sec. 5. Section 29-143o of the general statutes is repealed and the
160 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

175 Sec. 6. Section 29-143p of the general statutes is repealed and the
176 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

177 The price of admission and of the seats to any boxing or mixed
178 martial arts match conducted under the provisions of this chapter shall

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

187 Sec. 7. Section 29-143q of the general statutes is repealed and the
188 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

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

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

205 Sec. 8. Section 29-143r of the general statutes is repealed and the
206 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

207 The commissioner shall select the referees for any boxing
208 [exhibition] or mixed martial arts match conducted, held or given

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

219 Sec. 9. Section 29-143s of the general statutes is repealed and the
220 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

224 Sec. 10. Section 29-143t of the general statutes is repealed and the
225 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

239 (b) The cost of any physical examination required by this chapter or

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

246 Sec. 11. Section 29-143u of the general statutes is repealed and the
247 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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

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

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

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

269 No person shall bet or wager upon the result of any boxing or

270 mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition.

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

273 No person under eighteen years of age shall be admitted to any
274 professional boxing [exhibition, provided any person fourteen years of
275 age or over may be admitted when] match or any professional or
276 amateur mixed martial arts match unless accompanied by [his] such
277 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 boxing [exhibitions] matches held or conducted under the laws of this
295 state, [or to] (2) wrestling [bouts] exhibitions or amateur boxing
296 [exhibitions] matches held under the provisions of section 29-143j, as
297 amended by this act, or under the supervision of any school, college or
298 university having an academic course of study or of the recognized
299 athletic association connected with such school, college or university,

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

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section	<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	October 1, 2013	53-200
Sec. 17	October 1, 2013	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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. CLEMONS, 124th Dist.; SEN. AYALA, 23rd Dist.
SEN. DOYLE, 9th Dist.; SEN. CASSANO, 4th Dist.
REP. KINER, 59th Dist.; REP. REBIMBAS, 70th Dist.
REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.; REP. CANDELORA, 86th Dist.
SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd Dist.; REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.
REP. MCCRORY, 7th Dist.; REP. HEWETT, 39th Dist.
REP. BERGER, 73rd Dist.; REP. YACCARINO, 87th Dist.
REP. ALBIS, 99th Dist.; REP. ARCE, 4th Dist.
REP. MORRIS, 140th Dist.; SEN. MUSTO, 22nd Dist.
SEN. MAYNARD, 18th Dist.; REP. AYALA, 128th Dist.
REP. ALEXANDER, 58th Dist.; SEN. WITKOS, 8th Dist.
REP. VERRENGIA, 20th Dist.; REP. CANDELARIA, 95th Dist.
REP. VARGAS, 6th Dist.; REP. D'AMELIO, 71st Dist.
REP. MCGEE, 5th Dist.

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