



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5277

January Session, 2013



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 Section 29-143j of the general statutes is repealed and the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, [
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.*

FIN *Joint Favorable*