

House of Representatives, March 26, 1998. The Committee on General Law reported through REP. FOX, 144th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT BOXING PROMOTION COMMISSION AND CONCERNING BOXING REFEREES AND CERTAIN TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE BOXING STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 21a-196 of the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is
3 substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (a) AS USED IN THIS CHAPTER, AS AMENDED BY
5 THIS ACT, AND SECTION 12 OF THIS ACT,
6 "COMMISSIONER" MEANS THE COMMISSIONER OF CONSUMER
7 PROTECTION.

8 [(a)] (b) The [Commissioner of Consumer
9 Protection] COMMISSIONER shall have sole control
10 of and jurisdiction over all boxing exhibitions
11 and wrestling bouts held, conducted or given
12 within the state by any person or persons, club,
13 corporation or association, except amateur boxing
14 exhibitions or wrestling bouts held under the
15 supervision of any school, college or university
16 having an academic course of study or of the
17 recognized athletic association connected with
18 such school, college or university or amateur
19 boxing exhibitions and wrestling bouts held under
20 the auspices of any amateur athletic association

21 that has been determined by the commissioner to be
22 capable of ensuring the health and safety of the
23 participants; provided [that] the commissioner may
24 at any time assume jurisdiction over any amateur
25 boxing exhibition or wrestling bout if he
26 determines that the health and safety of the
27 participants is not being sufficiently
28 safeguarded. The commissioner may appoint
29 inspectors who shall, on the order of the
30 commissioner, represent him at all boxing
31 exhibitions and wrestling bouts. The commissioner
32 may appoint a secretary who shall prepare for
33 service such notices and papers as may be required
34 and perform such other duties as the commissioner
35 directs.

36 [(b)] (c) The commissioner or his authorized
37 representative may: (1) Issue subpoenas to any
38 person involved in any matter under investigation
39 PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT;
40 (2) subpoena documentary material relating to any
41 such matter; (3) administer an oath or affirmation
42 to any person, or (4) conduct hearings in aid of
43 any SUCH investigation, provided none of the
44 powers conferred by this chapter, AS AMENDED BY
45 THIS ACT, shall be used for the purpose of
46 compelling any natural person to furnish testimony
47 or evidence which might tend to incriminate him or
48 subject him to a penalty or forfeiture. If any
49 person fails or refuses to obey any such subpoena,
50 the commissioner, after giving notice, may apply
51 to the superior court for the judicial district of
52 Hartford-New Britain* which court, after a
53 hearing, may issue an order requiring such person
54 to obey such subpoena or any part of such
55 subpoena. Any disobedience of a final order of any
56 court under this section shall be punished as
57 contempt.

58 [(c)] (d) The commissioner shall [make] ADOPT
59 such regulations PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 54 as [he]
60 THE COMMISSIONER deems necessary and desirable for
61 the conduct, supervision and safety of boxing
62 exhibitions, including the licensing of the
63 sponsors and the participants of such BOXING
64 exhibitions, AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION
65 OF THE SPORT OF BOXING IN THIS STATE, INCLUDING,
66 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REGULATIONS TO IMPROVE THE
67 COMPETITIVENESS OF BOXING ACTIVITY IN THIS STATE
68 RELATIVE TO OTHER STATES. Such regulations shall

69 require fees for the issuance of licenses to such
70 sponsors and participants as follows: (1) For
71 referees, a fee of not less than sixty-three
72 dollars; (2) for matchmakers and assistant
73 matchmakers, a fee of not less than sixty-three
74 dollars; (3) for timekeepers, a fee of not less
75 than thirteen dollars; (4) for professional
76 boxers, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars;
77 (5) for amateur boxers, a fee of not less than
78 three dollars; (6) for managers, a fee of not less
79 than sixty-three dollars; (7) for trainers, a fee
80 of not less than thirteen dollars; (8) for
81 seconds, a fee of not less than thirteen dollars;
82 (9) for announcers, a fee of not less than
83 thirteen dollars; and (10) for promoters, a fee of
84 not less than two hundred fifty dollars.

85 [(d)] (e) The state, acting by and in the
86 discretion of the commissioner, may enter into a
87 contract with any person for the services of such
88 person acting as an inspector appointed in
89 accordance with the provisions of this section.

90 [(e)] (f) The commissioner may disallow the
91 conduct of any professional wrestling bout if he
92 determines that the health and safety of the
93 participants is not being sufficiently
94 safeguarded.

95 Sec. 2. Section 21a-197 of the general
96 statutes is repealed and the following is
97 substituted in lieu thereof:

98 As used in this section and sections 21a-196,
99 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 1 OF THIS ACT, 53-200 and
100 53-201 "amateur boxing exhibition" means [one] A
101 BOXING EXHIBITION which is no longer than three
102 two-minute rounds in which no contestant has
103 received or is to receive, directly or indirectly,
104 any money, reward or compensation either from the
105 expenses of any amateur boxing program or the
106 expenses of training or for taking part therein.
107 No person shall appear as a contestant in [such]
108 AN amateur boxing exhibition unless he wears
109 protective headgear [,] AND boxing gloves WEIGHING
110 not less than twelve ounces, AND has not, WITHIN
111 TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF SUCH EXHIBITION, appeared as
112 a contestant [within twenty-four hours or who
113 prior thereto] IN ANY OTHER AMATEUR BOXING
114 EXHIBITION. NO PERSON SHALL APPEAR AS A CONTESTANT
115 IN AN AMATEUR BOXING EXHIBITION IF SUCH PERSON has
116 received any compensation or reward in any form

117 for displaying, exercising, or rendering services
118 of any kind to any athletic organization, or to
119 any person or persons, as trainer, coach [,] OR
120 instructor, or [who otherwise] IF SUCH PERSON may
121 have been employed in any professional capacity by
122 reason of his athletic skill or knowledge. For the
123 purpose of this section, a prize such as a medal,
124 trophy, watch, ring or other jewelry, or articles
125 of wearing apparel may be awarded to any
126 contestant and shall not be considered money,
127 reward or compensation. Any contestant may be
128 reimbursed with money for such reasonable expenses
129 as may be incurred by him in traveling to and from
130 such amateur boxing exhibition, subject to the
131 approval of the [Commissioner of Consumer
132 Protection] COMMISSIONER. The commissioner shall
133 adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
134 concerning the age of the participants in amateur
135 boxing exhibitions.

136 Sec. 3. Section 21a-198 of the general
137 statutes is repealed and the following is
138 substituted in lieu thereof:

139 (a) The [Commissioner of Consumer Protection]
140 COMMISSIONER may, in his discretion, issue [and,
141 at his pleasure, revoke any] A license to conduct,
142 hold or give any boxing exhibition to any person,
143 persons, club, corporation or association. Before
144 any such license is granted, the applicant shall
145 execute and file with the commissioner a bond in
146 such amount and form and with such surety as is
147 determined by the commissioner, which bond shall
148 be conditioned for the payment of the tax imposed
149 by section 21a-199, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 4 OF
150 THIS ACT. Upon the filing and approval of such
151 bond, the commissioner shall issue to such
152 applicant a certificate of such filing and
153 approval. [, which shall be filed in the office of
154 the commissioner with the application for such
155 license, and no such] NO license shall be issued
156 UNDER THIS SECTION until such [certificate] BOND
157 is filed.

158 (b) THE COMMISSIONER MAY, IN HIS DISCRETION,
159 REVOKE ANY LICENSE TO CONDUCT, HOLD OR GIVE ANY
160 BOXING EXHIBITION ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION FOR
161 CAUSE AS PROVIDED IN THIS CHAPTER, AS AMENDED BY
162 THIS ACT, OR IN ANY REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS
163 CHAPTER, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT.

164 Sec. 4. Section 21a-199 of the general
165 statutes is repealed and the following is
166 substituted in lieu thereof:

167 Any person or combination of persons who, and
168 any club, corporation or association which, holds
169 or promotes any boxing exhibition or wrestling
170 match or exercises any of the privileges conferred
171 by this chapter, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT, or the
172 regulations adopted [hereunder] UNDER THIS
173 CHAPTER, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT, shall, within
174 twenty-four hours after the determination of each
175 boxing exhibition or wrestling match: [, furnish
176 to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection] (1)
177 FURNISH TO THE COMMISSIONER a written report
178 verified by such person or combination of persons
179 or by the treasurer and secretary of such club,
180 corporation or association, which report shall
181 include a statement of the number of tickets sold
182 for such exhibition or match, the amount of gross
183 receipts [thereof] FOR SUCH EXHIBITION OR MATCH
184 and such other [facts] INFORMATION as the
185 commissioner prescribes; [, and shall also, within
186 said time,] AND (2) pay to the commissioner a tax
187 of five per cent of the total receipts after
188 federal taxes have been deducted from the paid
189 admissions to such boxing exhibition or wrestling
190 match, which tax shall be paid into the State
191 Treasury.

192 Sec. 5. Section 21a-200 of the general
193 statutes is repealed and the following is
194 substituted in lieu thereof:

195 If any [such] person or combination of
196 persons, club, corporation or association fails to
197 make [such] A report of any contest AS REQUIRED BY
198 SECTION 21a-199, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 4 OF THIS
199 ACT, within the time prescribed by [this chapter]
200 SECTION 21a-199, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 4 OF THIS
201 ACT, or if any such report fails to include
202 sufficient information, the [Commissioner of
203 Consumer Protection] COMMISSIONER may examine, or
204 cause to be examined, the books and records of any
205 such person or combination of persons, club,
206 corporation or association and subpoena and
207 examine under oath such person or officers of such
208 club, corporation or association and other persons
209 for the purpose of determining the total amount of
210 such gross receipts and the amount of tax due
211 pursuant to the provisions of [this chapter]

212 SECTION 21a-199, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 4 OF THIS
213 ACT, which tax he may thereupon fix and determine.
214 In case of default in the payment of any tax
215 ascertained BY THE COMMISSIONER to be due [, with]
216 AND the expenses incurred in making such
217 examination, for a period of twenty days after
218 notice to such delinquent person or combination of
219 persons, club, corporation or association, such
220 delinquent shall forfeit the license issued under
221 [this chapter] SECTION 21a-198, AS AMENDED BY
222 SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT, and shall be disqualified
223 from receiving any new license [and] UNDER SECTION
224 21a-198, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT. SUCH
225 DELINQUENT shall also forfeit to the state the sum
226 of five hundred dollars.

227 Sec. 6. Section 21a-201 of the general
228 statutes is repealed and the following is
229 substituted in lieu thereof:

230 Any person who, and the officers of any club,
231 corporation or association which, sells or causes
232 to be sold any ticket of admission for any BOXING
233 exhibition or WRESTLING bout in excess of the
234 seating capacity of the room, hall, place,
235 building or structure used for such BOXING
236 exhibition or WRESTLING bout, shall, for the first
237 offense, be fined not more than two hundred
238 dollars, which shall be paid to the state. [; for]
239 FOR a subsequent offense, the club, corporation,
240 association or person or persons shall forfeit
241 its, his or their license ISSUED UNDER SECTION
242 21a-198, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT,
243 shall be disqualified from receiving any NEW
244 license [thereafter] ISSUED UNDER SECTION 21a-198,
245 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT, and shall
246 forfeit to the state the sum of five hundred
247 dollars. [, and the] THE officers of any such
248 club, corporation or association, for such
249 subsequent offense, shall be fined not more than
250 two hundred dollars.

251 Sec. 7. Section 21a-202 of the general
252 statutes is repealed and the following is
253 substituted in lieu thereof:

254 The price of admission and of the seats to
255 any BOXING exhibition conducted under the
256 provisions of this chapter, AS AMENDED BY THIS
257 ACT, shall be published in a newspaper published
258 and circulated in the town, city or borough where
259 such BOXING exhibition is to be conducted, if any

260 newspaper is published in such town, city or
261 borough, but, if no newspaper is published in such
262 town, city or borough, such publication shall be
263 made in a newspaper having a substantial
264 circulation in such town, city or borough. [, and]
265 ANY such publication shall be made in at least
266 three separate editions of such paper and in a
267 space not less than two INCHES by three inches in
268 size.

269 Sec. 8. Section 21a-203 of the general
270 statutes is repealed and the following is
271 substituted in lieu thereof:

272 No boxing exhibition shall consist of more
273 than fifteen rounds and each round shall be no
274 longer than three MINUTES nor less than two
275 minutes in duration. In all exhibitions, if a
276 contestant who has been knocked down arises before
277 the count of ten seconds, the referee shall
278 complete a count of eight seconds and assure
279 himself that the contestant is fit to continue.
280 The referee may, in his discretion, order a
281 standing knockdown and a mandatory eight count if
282 a contestant is taking a severe beating and is
283 apparently defenseless but is not knocked down.
284 The standing knockdown shall be treated in all
285 respects, including scoring, as a knockdown. No
286 boxing exhibition shall be conducted unless a
287 referee approved by the [Commissioner of Consumer
288 Protection] COMMISSIONER is in attendance and
289 directs and controls the BOXING exhibition.

290 Sec. 9. Section 21a-205 of the general
291 statutes is repealed and the following is
292 substituted in lieu thereof:

293 (a) No person shall engage in any boxing
294 exhibition as a boxer until he has been examined
295 and found to be physically fit by a competent
296 physician approved by the [Commissioner of
297 Consumer Protection] COMMISSIONER, licensed to
298 practice under the laws of this state and in
299 practice in this state FOR at least two years.
300 Such physician shall be appointed by the
301 commissioner and shall be in attendance throughout
302 the BOXING exhibition for which such examination
303 was made. Such physician shall certify in writing
304 that the contestant is physically fit to engage in
305 such [contest and his fee as decided by said]
306 BOXING EXHIBITION. ANY FEE FOR SUCH PHYSICIAN, AS
307 DETERMINED BY THE commissioner, shall be paid by

308 the person or club, corporation or association
309 conducting such BOXING exhibition.

310 (b) The cost of any physical examination
311 required by this chapter, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT,
312 or regulations adopted [hereunder] UNDER THIS
313 CHAPTER, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT, other than [that]
314 AN EXAMINATION required by subsection (a), may be
315 assessed by the commissioner on any boxer examined
316 by a physician appointed by the commissioner or on
317 the person, club, corporation or association
318 conducting the next BOXING exhibition in which the
319 contestant is scheduled to compete.

320 Sec. 10. Section 21a-206 of the general
321 statutes is repealed and the following is
322 substituted in lieu thereof:

323 Any person acting as principal, manager,
324 second, promoter or matchmaker receiving or
325 accepting, directly or indirectly, any money or
326 other valuable thing from any boxer for any
327 special privilege or for discriminating in any
328 manner relating to any BOXING exhibition shall be
329 subject to the penalty prescribed in section
330 21a-211.

331 Sec. 11. Section 21a-210 of the general
332 statutes is repealed and the following is
333 substituted in lieu thereof:

334 No license shall be issued UNDER SECTION
335 21a-198, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT, to
336 conduct, hold or give any boxing exhibition in any
337 town, city or borough which has adopted any
338 ordinance prohibiting boxing exhibitions within
339 its limits.

340 Sec. 12. (NEW) The commissioner shall select
341 the referees for any boxing exhibition conducted,
342 held or given within this state, except amateur
343 boxing exhibitions held under the supervision of
344 any school, college or university having an
345 academic course of study or of the recognized
346 athletic association connected with such school,
347 college or university or amateur boxing
348 exhibitions held under the auspices of any amateur
349 athletic association that has been determined by
350 the commissioner to be capable of ensuring the
351 health and safety of the participants. All such
352 referees shall be licensed by the commissioner
353 under chapter 419e of the general statutes, as
354 amended by this act, and the regulations adopted
355 by the commissioner under said chapter.

356 Sec. 13. (NEW) (a) There is established the
357 Connecticut Boxing Promotion Commission which
358 shall be within the Department of Consumer
359 Protection for administrative purposes only. The
360 commission shall consist of nine members, three to
361 be appointed by the Governor, one to be appointed
362 by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
363 one to be appointed by the president pro tempore
364 of the Senate, one to be appointed by the majority
365 leader of the House of Representatives, one to be
366 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,
367 one to be appointed by the minority leader of the
368 House of Representatives and one to be appointed
369 by the minority leader of the Senate. The initial
370 appointments to the commission shall be made not
371 later than November 1, 1998. Notwithstanding the
372 provisions of subsection (c) of section 4-9a of
373 the general statutes, the terms of each member of
374 the commission shall be coterminous with the term
375 of the appointing authority or until a successor
376 is chosen, whichever is later. The appointing
377 authority shall fill any vacancy for the unexpired
378 portion of the term. Members of the commission
379 shall receive no compensation for their services.
380 The commission shall hold at least one meeting
381 each quarter.

382 (b) The commission shall make recommendations
383 to the Governor, the Commissioner of Consumer
384 Protection, the Commissioner of Economic and
385 Community Development and the General Assembly,
386 upon the request thereof or at such time or times
387 as the commission may determine, to encourage,
388 develop and promote the sport of boxing in this
389 state. Such recommendations shall include, but not
390 be limited to: (1) Identifying any legal or
391 administrative impediments to the development of
392 the boxing industry in this state; (2) identifying
393 ways to improve state and local services designed
394 to support and promote boxing; (3) identifying
395 ways of developing young boxers through amateur
396 boxing clubs and other programs; and (4)
397 developing strategies to assist promoters of
398 small-scale professional boxing events and to aid
399 in the development of a market for large-scale
400 professional boxing events in this state.

401 GL COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 16 NAY 0 JFS

* * * * *

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF 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 HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

* * * * *

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5560

STATE IMPACT Workload Increase, Potential
 Minimal Revenue Decrease, see
 explanation below

MUNICIPAL IMPACT None

STATE AGENCY(S) Department of Consumer Protection

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: The bill establishes a Connecticut Boxing Promotion Commission within the Department of Consumer Protection for administrative purposes only. Members of the Commission will not be compensated.

The bill requires the DCP Commissioner to adopt regulations to develop and promote boxing in Connecticut including regulations to make Connecticut more competitive with other states. It authorizes the Commissioner to revoke licenses to conduct, hold or give boxing exhibitions for cause rather than at his pleasure.

The bill requires the DCP Commissioner to select boxing referees licensed by him for professional boxing exhibitions held in the state.

There is no cost to the state associated with the nine member Connecticut Boxing Promotion Commission. The members will not be compensated.

There is a workload increase for the Department of Consumer Protection associated with adopting regulations, selecting referees for boxing exhibitions and revoking licenses for cause.

There could be a minimal revenue loss for the state if more boxing licenses are revoked by the Department of Consumer Protection Commissioner.

* * * * *

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sHB 5560

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT BOXING PROMOTION COMMISSION AND CONCERNING BOXING REFEREES AND CERTAIN TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE BOXING STATUTES

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a nine-member Connecticut Boxing Promotion Commission within the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) for administrative purposes only.

The commission must recommend ways to encourage, develop, and promote boxing to the governor, the DCP commissioner, and the General Assembly when they request or when the commission determines. The recommendations must include (1) legal or administrative impediments to the development of boxing, (2) ways to improve state and local boxing support and promotion services, (3) ways to develop young boxers through amateur clubs and other programs, and (4) strategies to help promoters of small professional boxing events and thereby create a market for large professional events.

The bill requires the DCP commissioner to adopt regulations to develop and promote boxing, including regulations to make boxing in Connecticut more competitive with other states. It authorizes the commissioner to revoke licenses to conduct, hold, or give boxing exhibitions for cause rather than at his pleasure. Current law makes the license of any club, corporation, association, or person forfeit for failure to pay the 5% tax on admissions receipts.

The bill requires the commissioner to select boxing referees licensed by him for professional boxing exhibitions held in the state. The law already requires a referee approved by the commissioner to direct and control boxing matches and state regulations require boxing referees to be licensed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

FURTHER EXPLANATION

Boxing Promotion Commission

The commission's nine members are appointed by the governor (three members) and the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and majority and minority leaders of both chambers (one member each). Initial appointments must be made by November 1, 1998. It must meet once each quarter. Despite the law making the terms of members of boards in the executive branch coterminous with the governor's, the bill makes members' terms coterminous with their appointing authority or until a successor is chosen, whichever is later. Vacancies are filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term. Members are not compensated.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 16 Nay 0