

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1576

By: Joyner

5 AS INTRODUCED

6 An Act relating to amusements and sports; amending 3A
7 O.S. 2001, Sections 602, as amended by Section 2,
8 Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2008, 606, as last amended by
9 Section 7, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2008 and 616, as last
10 amended by Section 16, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2008 (3A
11 O.S. Supp. 2008, Sections 602, 606 and 616), which
12 relate to the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission;
13 modifying and adding definitions; expanding
14 jurisdiction to include certain mixed martial arts
15 contests; increasing limit on certain fund; and
16 declaring an emergency.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2001, Section 602, as
19 amended by Section 2, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2008 (3A O.S. Supp. 2008,
20 Section 602), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 602. A. As used in the Oklahoma State Athletic
22 Commission Act:

23 1. "Administrator" means the administrator of the Oklahoma
24 State Athletic Commission;

25 2. "Amateur boxer" means a person who has never received or
26 competed for any purse or other article either for the expenses of
27 training therefor or for participating in any boxing contest or

1 professional exhibition which exceeds in monies or other things of
2 value a sum to be determined by the Oklahoma State Athletic
3 Commission;

4 3. "Amateur mixed martial artist" means a person eighteen (18)
5 years of age or older who has never received or competed for any
6 purse or other article either for the expenses of training therefor
7 or for participating in any combative sport contest or professional
8 exhibition which exceeds in monies or other things of value a sum to
9 be determined by the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission;

10 4. "Amateur mixed martial arts" means any form of competitive
11 pugilistic contest in which the participants have never been
12 licensed as professionals in any combative sport and blows are
13 delivered with any part of the hands, feet, or knees and multiple
14 combative disciplines are used including grappling. Such contests
15 take place in a rope-enclosed ring or fenced enclosed cage and are
16 fought in timed rounds;

17 5. "Applicant" means any individual, club, association,
18 corporation, partnership or trust which submits to the Oklahoma
19 State Athletic Commission an application for a license or permit
20 pursuant to the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act;

21 4. 6. "Booking agent" means independent contractors who act as
22 bookers, agents, agencies and representatives who secure engagements
23 and contracts for ~~boxers~~ combative sports participants;

1 5. 7. "Boxing" means any form of competitive pugilism or
2 unarmed combat in which a blow is usually struck which may
3 reasonably be expected to inflict injury, including, but not limited
4 to, boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing, but shall
5 not include the martial arts as defined by the provisions of this
6 section;

7 6. 8. "Broadcast" means any audio or visual transmission sent
8 by any means of signal within, into, or from this state, whether
9 live or taped or time delayed, and includes any replays thereof;

10 7. 9. "Cable system operator" means any person who makes
11 available or provides customers a closed-circuit telecast which is
12 pay-per-view, including any person who does so as a direct broadcast
13 satellite provider or other multichannel video service provider;

14 8. 10. "Closed-circuit telecast of professional ~~boxing~~
15 combative sporting events" means telecast rights, including
16 television, cable television, or pay-per-view telecasts, acquired by
17 paying a licensing fee or by paying a contractual price by a
18 business or individual, including, but not limited to, arenas,
19 entertainment or meeting centers, restaurants, bars, taverns,
20 hotels, motels, clubs, and organizations, which offers the viewing
21 of the event to the public or to private residences. Such events
22 shall include local and state professional boxing contests and
23 professional exhibitions as defined in this section. For purposes
24 of ~~Sections 621 and~~ Section 622 of this title, "closed-circuit

1 "telecast" means any such telecast of a professional ~~boxing~~ combative
2 sporting event as described herein which is not intended to be
3 available for viewing without the payment of a fee, collected for or
4 based upon each event viewed, for the privilege of viewing the
5 telecast, and includes pay-per-view;

6 9. 11. "Club" means an incorporated or unincorporated
7 association or body of individuals voluntarily united and acting
8 together for some common or special purpose;

9 10. 12. "Combative sports" means any form of competitive
10 pugilism or unarmed combat in which a blow is usually struck which
11 may reasonably be expected to inflict injury, including but not
12 limited to boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing,
13 but shall not include the martial arts (singular) as defined by the
14 provisions of this section;

15 13. "Commission" means the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission;

16 11. 14. "Contest" means a ~~boxing~~ combative sports match in
17 which it is reasonable to anticipate that the participants strive
18 earnestly in good faith to win;

19 12. 15. "Corner person" means, but shall not be limited to, a
20 trainer, a second, or any other individual who attends the
21 participant during a match;

22 13. 16. "Exhibition" means a boxing match in which the
23 participants show or display their skill without necessarily
24 striving to win, such as sparring;

1 14. 17. "Judge" means an individual other than a referee who
2 shall have a vote in determining the winner of any contest;

3 15. 18. "Kickboxing" means any form of competitive pugilistic
4 professional contest in which blows are delivered with the hand and
5 any part of the foot. Such contests take place in a rope-enclosed
6 ring and are fought in timed rounds;

7 16. 19. "License" means a certificate issued by the Commission
8 to participants of sanctioned professional ~~boxing~~ combative sports
9 contests and, professional exhibitions, and amateur mixed martial
10 arts contests and is a mandatory requirement for participation in
11 such events;

12 17. 20. "Manager" means an individual who controls or
13 administers the affairs of any professional ~~boxer~~ combative sports
14 participant, including acting as a booking agent. "Manager" shall
15 include the representative of a manager as defined by the
16 Commission;

17 18. 21. "Martial arts" means any form of karate, kung fu, tae
18 kwon-do, or any other form of martial or self-defense art;

19 19. 22. "Matchmaker" means an individual who brings together
20 professional ~~boxers~~ combative sports participants or arranges
21 professional ~~boxing~~ combative sports contests or professional
22 exhibitions;

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1 20. 23. "Participant" means a professional an individual who
2 takes part in a professional boxing combative sports contest, an
3 amateur mixed martial arts contest, or professional exhibition;

4 21. 24. "Pay-per-view telecasts of professional boxing events"
5 means telecasts offered by cable television companies to subscribers
6 at a cost in addition to the monthly cable television subscription
7 rate. Such events shall include local and state professional boxing
8 contests and professional exhibitions as defined in this section;

9 22. 25. "Person" means any individual, partnership, limited
10 liability company, club, association, corporation, or trust;

11 23. 26. "Physician" means an individual licensed under the laws
12 of this state to engage in the general practice of medicine or
13 osteopathic medicine;

14 24. 27. "Professional boxer" means an individual eighteen (18)
15 years of age or older who competes for money, prizes, or purses, or
16 who teaches, instructs, or assists in the practice of boxing or
17 sparring as a means of obtaining pecuniary gain;

18 25. 28. "Professional boxing contest, amateur mixed martial
19 arts contest, and professional exhibition" means mean a boxing
20 combative sports match conducted within this state in which the
21 participants are persons who must be licensed pursuant to the
22 provisions of the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act;

23 26. 29. "Professional mixed martial arts" means any form of
24 competitive pugilistic contest in which the participants are paid a

1 purse and blows are delivered with any part of the hands, feet,
2 elbows, or knees and multiple combative disciplines are used to
3 include grappling. Such contests take place in a rope-enclosed ring
4 or fenced enclosed cage and are fought in timed rounds;

5 30. "Promoter" means any individual, whether a resident or
6 nonresident of Oklahoma, or club or corporation, whether
7 domesticated or not domesticated in Oklahoma, that produces or
8 stages professional contests, amateur mixed martial arts contests,
9 or professional exhibitions conducted within this state and shall
10 include any officer, director, or employees as defined by the
11 Commission;

12 27. 31. "Pugilism" means boxing combative sports or the skill
13 or practice of fighting with the fists;

14 28. 32. "Purse" means the financial guarantee or any other
15 remuneration or thing of value for which a professional boxer
16 participates in a professional boxing contest or professional
17 exhibition and shall include the participant's share of any payment
18 received for radio broadcasting, television, including cable
19 television, pay-per-view television, and closed-circuit television,
20 and motion picture rights. "Purse" shall also include gate receipts
21 and any other prizes;

22 29. 33. "Ring official" means any individual who performs an
23 official function during the progress of a professional boxing
24 contest, amateur mixed martial arts contest, or professional

1 exhibition including but not limited to timekeepers, judges,
2 referees, and attending physicians;

3 30. 34. "Sanctioning permit" means a permit issued by the
4 Commission to promoters who make application for official approval
5 of professional boxing contests, amateur mixed martial arts contests
6 and professional exhibitions;

7 31. 35. "Sparring" means to engage in a form of boxing with
8 jabbing or feinting movements, and the exchange of few heavy blows,
9 such as occurs in a practice or exhibition boxing match;

10 32. 36. "Telecast promoter", for purposes of ~~Sections 621 and~~
11 Section 622 of this title, means any promoter who shows or causes to
12 be shown in this state a closed-circuit telecast of any professional
13 boxing event, whether or not the telecast or event originates in
14 this state. "Telecast promoter" shall not include a cable system
15 operator;

16 33. 37. "Trainer" means an individual who assists, coaches, or
17 instructs any professional boxer or amateur mixed martial arts
18 participant with respect to physical conditioning, strategy,
19 techniques, or preparation for competition, professional boxing
20 contests, or professional exhibitions; and

21 34. 38. "Vendor" means any individual, firm, organization,
22 club, or corporation that participates in the conduct of a
23 professional boxing contest, amateur mixed martial arts contest, or
24 professional exhibition by offering for sale food or merchandise,

1 including, but not limited to, wearing apparel, alcoholic and
2 nonalcoholic beverages, souvenirs, and programs.

3 B. The Commission may define any term which is not defined in
4 the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act.

5 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2001, Section 606, as last
6 amended by Section 7, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2008 (3A O.S. Supp. 2008,
7 Section 606), is amended to read as follows:

8 Section 606. A. The Oklahoma State Athletic Commission is
9 hereby vested with jurisdiction to issue sanctioning permits for all
10 professional boxing contests, amateur mixed martial arts contests,
11 and professional exhibitions held or given within this state and
12 licenses for participants of sanctioned contests and exhibitions.

13 B. Specifically exempt from the provisions of the Oklahoma
14 State Athletic Commission Act are the contests or exhibitions
15 conducted or sponsored by:

16 1. Any school, college, or university where the participants
17 are students regularly enrolled in such institutions and the
18 instructors, coaches, and trainers are employees of such
19 institutions. The term "school, college, or university" shall not
20 include a school or other institution whose principal purpose is to
21 furnish instruction in boxing or sparring;

22 2. Any military installation or branch of the Armed Forces
23 where the participants are employed by the military installation or
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1 are members of the branch of the Armed Forces sponsoring the contest
2 or exhibition; and

3 3. Amateur boxing matches which are sanctioned by a Commission-
4 approved and nationally recognized amateur sanctioning body. To
5 obtain an exemption from the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act
6 under this paragraph, a nationally recognized amateur sanctioning
7 body must present itself to the Commission and provide a copy of its
8 rules and bylaws for Commission review and approval. Upon approval,
9 the Commission, or its designated representatives, may visit,
10 attend, investigate and audit, as the Commission deems necessary,
11 any match, event, sanctioning body office or event office for the
12 purpose of determining whether the rules and bylaws of the amateur
13 sanctioning body as submitted to the Commission are being followed.
14 The Commission administrator shall immediately rescind approval of
15 any nationally recognized amateur sanctioning body, pending a
16 hearing, if said sanctioning body is found to be negligent or
17 noncommittal in the enforcement of the rules and bylaws presented to
18 and approved by the Commission.

19 C. The following persons are specifically exempt from the
20 provisions of the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act:

21 1. Practitioners and instructors of the martial arts as defined
22 in Section 602 of this title; and

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1 2. Instructors of amateur boxers if such instructors are not
2 required to be licensed pursuant to other provisions of the Oklahoma
3 State Athletic Commission Act.

4 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2001, Section 616, as last
5 amended by Section 16, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2008 (3A O.S. Supp. 2008,
6 Section 616), is amended to read as follows:

7 Section 616. A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury
8 a revolving fund for the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission to be
9 designated the "Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Revolving Fund".
10 The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year
11 limitations, and shall consist of all monies received from fees,
12 administrative fines, reimbursements, bond proceeds, and sale of
13 materials, and shall include grants and gifts, pursuant to the
14 Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act. All monies accruing to the
15 credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and
16 expended by the State Department of Health as directed by the
17 Commission for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the
18 Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act; provided, revenue in excess
19 of ~~Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00)~~ Seven Hundred
20 Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) during any fiscal year shall be
21 deposited to the credit of the General Revenue Fund of the State
22 Treasury. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants
23 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
24 law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

1 B. The "Professional Boxing Licensing Revolving Fund" created
2 for the Department of Health is hereby abolished. On July 1, 2008,
3 any unencumbered funds remaining in the Professional Boxing
4 Licensing Revolving Fund shall be transferred to the credit of the
5 Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Revolving Fund. Any unexpended
6 funds remaining in the Professional Boxing Licensing Revolving Fund
7 after November 1, 2008, shall be transferred to the credit of the
8 Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Revolving Fund.

9 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
10 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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14 52-1-5128 CJB 12/30/08

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