

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1122

By: Bashore, Luttrell, and Deck
of the House

and

Weaver and Boren of the
Senate

An Act relating to amusements and sports; amending 3A O.S. 2021, Sections 602, 604.2, 605, 606, 616, and 624, which relate to the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act; modifying definitions; directing the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission to assume jurisdiction over certain licensing; directing Commission to halt certain events; directing Commission to seek penalties in certain circumstances; modifying terms relating to employment by the Commission; directing the Commission to cease certain support; providing that the Commission be a separate and distinct agency; requiring the return of Commission property; providing certain protections; directing that certain expenses be paid by Commission; prohibiting promotion or participation in certain events; modifying terms related to the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Revolving Fund; removing certain exceptions that relate to testing for the human immunodeficiency virus, the hepatitis B virus, or the hepatitis C virus before the issuing of a license; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Amusements and sports

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2021, Section 602, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

2. "Amateur combative sports event" means a combative sports event in which the participants have never been licensed as professionals in any combative sport;

3. "Amateur combative sports practitioner" means a person who has never received or competed for any purse or other article either for the expenses of training therefor or for participating in any combative sports contest or exhibition which exceeds in monies or other things of value a sum to be determined by the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission;

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

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

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

7. "Booking agent" means independent contractors who act as bookers, agents, agencies and representatives who secure engagements and contracts for combative sports participants;

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

9. "Broadcast" means any audio or visual transmission sent by any means of signal within this state, whether live or taped or time delayed, and includes any replays thereof. "Broadcast" shall not include any audio or visual transmission sent by any means of signal of any professional boxing event conducted outside this state;

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

11. "Closed-circuit telecast of professional combative sporting events" means telecast rights, including television, cable television, or pay-per-view telecasts, acquired by paying a licensing fee or by paying a contractual price by a business or individual, including, but not limited to, arenas, entertainment or meeting centers, restaurants, bars, taverns, hotels, motels, clubs, and organizations, which offers the viewing of the event to the public or to private residences. Such events shall include local and state professional combative sports contests and professional exhibitions as defined in this section. "Closed-circuit telecast" means any such telecast of a professional combative sporting event as described herein which is not intended to be available for viewing without the payment of a fee, collected for or based upon each event viewed, for the privilege of viewing the telecast, and includes pay-per-view;

12. "Club" means an incorporated or unincorporated association or body of individuals voluntarily united and acting together for some common or special purpose;

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

14. "Combative sports practitioner" means a person who competes or spars in a combative sports event ~~and includes, including, but not limited to,~~ boxers, kickboxers, mixed martial artists and wrestlers;

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

16. "Contest" means a combative sports event in which it is reasonable to anticipate that the participants strive earnestly in good faith to win;

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

18. "Event" means a combative sports contest or exhibition including but not limited to a match, bout, contest, show or tournament;

19. "Exhibition" means a combative sports event in which the participants show or display their skill by sparring without necessarily striving to win;

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

21. "Kickboxing" means any form of competitive pugilistic professional or amateur contest or exhibition in which blows are delivered with the hand and any part of the foot. Such contests or exhibitions take place in a rope-enclosed ring and are fought in timed rounds;

22. "License" means a certificate issued by the Commission to participants of sanctioned professional or amateur combative sports contests, ~~professional or exhibitions, and amateur mixed martial arts contests~~ and is a mandatory requirement for participation in such events;

23. "Manager" means an individual who controls or administers the affairs of any professional combative sports participant, including acting as a booking agent. "Manager" shall include the representative of a manager as defined by the Commission;

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

25. "Matchmaker" means an individual who brings together professional combative sports participants or arranges professional combative sports contests or professional exhibitions;

26. "Participant" means an individual who takes part in a combative sports event;

27. "Pay-per-view telecasts of professional combative sports events" means telecasts offered by cable television companies to subscribers at a cost in addition to the monthly cable television subscription rate. Such events shall include local and state professional combative sports contests and professional exhibitions as defined in this section;

28. "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, club, association, corporation, trust, or other entity any other group or combination acting in concert, or any assignee, agent, employee, director, officer, or any other representative of such person;

29. "Physician" means an individual licensed under the laws of this state to engage in the general practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine;

30. "Professional combative sports practitioner" means an individual eighteen (18) years of age or older who competes for money, prizes, or purses, or who teaches, instructs, or assists in the practice of combative sports or sparring as a means of obtaining pecuniary gain;

31. "Professional combative sports event" means a combative sports event in which the participants are paid a purse;

32. "Professional mixed martial arts" means any form of competitive pugilistic contest in which the participants are paid a purse and blows are delivered with any part of the hands, feet, elbows, or knees and multiple combative disciplines are used to include grappling. Such contests take place in a rope-enclosed ring or fenced enclosed cage and are fought in timed rounds;

33. "Promote" or "promoting" means producing, staging, sponsoring, organizing or otherwise holding a combative sports event whether or not the event is open to the public;

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

35. "Pugilism" means combative sports or the skill or practice of fighting with the fists;

36. "Purse" means the financial guarantee or any other remuneration or thing of value for which a combative sports practitioner participates in a professional combative sports event and shall include the participant's share of any payment received for radio broadcasting, television, including cable television, pay-per-view television, and closed-circuit television, and motion picture rights. "Purse" shall also include gate receipts and any other prizes;

37. "Ring official" means any individual who performs an official function during the progress of a combative sports event or amateur mixed martial arts event including but not limited to timekeepers, judges, referees, and attending physicians;

38. "Sanctioning permit" means a permit issued by the Commission to promoters who make application for official approval of a professional or amateur combative sports event ~~and amateur mixed martial arts events event~~;

39. "Sparring" means to engage in a form of combative sport with jabbing or feinting movements, and the exchange of few heavy blows, such as occurs in a practice or exhibition boxing match;

40. "Telecast promoter" means any promoter who shows or causes to be shown in this state a closed-circuit telecast of any professional combative sports event conducted in this state. "Telecast promoter" shall not include a cable system operator;

41. "Trainer" means an individual who assists, coaches, or instructs any professional combative sports practitioner or amateur mixed martial artist with respect to physical conditioning, strategy, techniques, or preparation for competition, professional combative sports contests, or professional exhibitions; and

42. "Vendor" means any individual, firm, organization, club, or corporation that participates in the conduct of a professional combative sports event or amateur mixed martial arts event conducted in this state by offering for sale food or merchandise, including, but not limited to, wearing apparel, alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, souvenirs, and programs.

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

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2021, Section 604.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 604.2. A. The mission of the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission shall be to preserve and protect the health, safety and welfare of combative sports event participants and the general public through the effective regulation of combative sports in the State of Oklahoma, while fostering an environment that expands existing combative sports events and brings new events into the state.

B. The Commission shall have the power and duty to:

1. Promulgate rules and issue orders necessary to carry out the purposes of the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act, and enforce the provisions of said act and the rules promulgated pursuant thereto;

2. Assume jurisdiction over all matters relating to the licensing of amateur and professional combative sports practitioners, amateur including, but not limited to, mixed martial artists, amateur kickboxers, professional boxers, corner persons, booking agents, matchmakers, promoters, referees, judges, timekeepers, vendors, physicians, announcers, clubs, and corporations associated with a an amateur or professional combative sports event, amateur including, but not limited to, a kickboxing event or amateur, mixed martial arts event, or professional boxing event related thereto;

3. Act to halt the unlicensed promotion of professional combative sports events and seek administrative, criminal, and civil penalties against those engaged in booking, matchmaking, and promoting unsanctioned events;

4. Set license and permit fees pursuant to the requirements of the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act;

~~4.~~ 5. Conduct investigations into the qualifications of applicants for licensure and registration;

~~5.~~ 6. Conduct investigations and proceedings for alleged violations of the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act and order

or subpoena the attendance of witnesses, the inspection of records and premises, and the production of relevant books and papers necessary to such investigations and proceedings;

~~6.~~ 7. Develop and administer examinations for applicants for licenses and permits; and

~~7.~~ 8. Make such expenditures as may be necessary in the performance of its duties.

C. Any rule promulgated, order made, or action taken prior to July 1, 1999, by the Commissioner of Labor or the Department of Labor pursuant to the provisions of, or rules issued pursuant to, the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act shall be considered valid and in effect unless amended, repealed, or rescinded by the Commission.

D. Any valid license, permit, certificate, or registration issued prior to July 1, 1999, by the Commissioner of Labor pursuant to the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act, or rules promulgated pursuant thereto, shall remain valid and in effect until it expires pursuant to law or unless suspended or revoked by the Commission. Any application for a license, permit, certificate, or registration which is pending on June 30, 1999, is hereby transferred to the Commission.

E. All personnel, powers, duties, responsibilities, fund balances, encumbrances, obligations, and property, which shall include records, furniture, and equipment of the Department of Labor relating to the regulation of combative sports, are hereby transferred to the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2021, Section 605, is amended to read as follows:

Section 605. A. The Oklahoma State Athletic Commission may employ an administrator to oversee the organization and activities of the Commission and to ensure compliance with rules promulgated by the Commission. The administrator shall perform such other duties as the Commission may prescribe. The salary of the administrator shall be set by the Commission. The position of administrator shall be an unclassified position.

B. The Commission may employ an assistant to keep records of all proceedings relating to professional combative sports and

amateur mixed martial arts and to preserve all books, documents, and papers belonging to the Commission. The assistant shall perform such other duties as the Commission may prescribe. The Commission may employ such other personnel as necessary, ~~subject to statutory full-time equivalent (FTE) limits applicable to the State Department of Health.~~

~~C. The State Department of Health shall provide administrative support for the Commission, including, but not limited to, office space, equipment, and furnishings, payroll and employee benefit administration and processing, and travel and expense reimbursement, and shall manage the Commission's funds at the direction of the Commission. The State Department of Health shall be entitled to reimbursement for the actual cost of providing said administrative support to the Commission from the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Revolving Fund; provided that said reimbursement shall not exceed in any year ten percent (10%) of the total revenue deposited in the fund in the preceding fiscal year received from fees, administrative fines, reimbursements, bond proceeds and sale of materials, but not including cash bonds held in trust by the Commission. Upon a written directive of expenditure from Commission funds signed by a majority of the Commission members or the Commission administrator, the State Department of Health shall process and make payment for said expenditure from Commission funds within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the written directive from the State Department of Health. All other Commission-directed expenditures shall be processed according to State Department of Health policy.~~

~~D. Employees of the Commission shall be considered unclassified employees of the State Department of Health only for the purpose of administrative support provided by the State Department of Health as prescribed in subsection C of this section.~~

C. Persons employed by the Commission shall serve at the direction and pleasure of the Commission and shall answer directly to the Commission administrator and the Commission.

~~E.~~ D. The administrator, the assistant, and any other employees of the Commission or any persons related to said employees within the third degree by either consanguinity or affinity shall be prohibited from promoting, sponsoring, or having any pecuniary interest in any professional combative sports event or amateur mixed martial arts event regulated by the Commission with the exception of medical personnel.

E. Beginning on the effective date of this act, the Commission shall cease all support from the State Department of Health and shall be deemed to be a separate and distinct agency. All records, property, equipment, assets, monies, financial interests, liabilities, matters pending, and funds of the Commission shall be transferred to the Commission.

F. The State Department of Health and the Commission may enter into an agreement for the transfer of personnel from the State Department of Health to the Commission. No employees of the Commission shall be required to accept a lesser grade or salary than presently received. All employees shall retain leave, sick and annual time earned, and any retirement and longevity benefits which have accrued during their tenure with the State Department of Health. The transfer of personnel shall be coordinated with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.

G. The expenses incurred by the Commission as a result of the transfer required by this section shall be paid by the Commission.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2021, Section 606, is amended to read as follows:

Section 606. A. The Oklahoma State Athletic Commission is hereby vested with jurisdiction to issue sanctioning permits for all professional and amateur combative sports contests and exhibitions, ~~for all amateur including, but not limited to, mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions and all amateur kickboxing contests and exhibitions,~~ professional boxing, and kickboxing held or given within this state and to issue licenses for participants of sanctioned contests and exhibitions.

B. 1. ~~No person shall~~ It shall be unlawful to promote, nor shall any person or participate in, a professional or amateur combative sports event ~~or an amateur mixed martial arts event or an amateur kickboxing event~~ unless the event is sanctioned by the Commission.

2. Except as provided in paragraphs 1 and 2 of subsection C of this section, ~~no person shall~~ it shall be unlawful to promote an amateur combative sports event unless the event ~~has been~~ is sanctioned by the Commission.

3. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be ~~punishable pursuant to the~~ subject to the administrative and criminal penalty provisions of Section 615 of this title.

C. Specifically exempt from the provisions of the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act are the amateur combative sports contests or exhibitions conducted or sponsored by:

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

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

3. USA Boxing; and

4. The International Olympic Committee.

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

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

2. Instructors of amateur combative sports practitioners if such instructors are not required to be licensed pursuant to other provisions of the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2021, Section 616, is amended to read as follows:

Section 616. A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission to be designated the "Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received from fees, administrative fines, reimbursements, bond proceeds, and sale of materials, and shall include grants and gifts, pursuant to the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act. All monies accruing to the

credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended ~~by the State Department of Health as directed~~ by the Commission for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the Oklahoma State Athletic Commission Act. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

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

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2021, Section 624, is amended to read as follows:

Section 624. A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, prior to being issued a license pursuant to this act every participant applicant shall submit a certified copy of results from testing performed by a laboratory certified pursuant to 42 C.F.R. Part 493 verifying that the applicant is not infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the hepatitis B virus or the hepatitis C virus. ~~The testing shall be performed no more than~~ Testing shall be conducted within three hundred sixty-five (365) days before the application is submitted. ~~A statement from a doctor of osteopathy or medical doctor indicating that the applicant has successfully completed a full course of vaccinations for hepatitis B may be submitted in lieu of the results of testing for hepatitis B before the combative sports contest or exhibition the participant applicant is participating in.~~ Except as otherwise provided in this section, an applicant who receives positive results from any of the tests required by this section shall be denied a license for the particular contest.

B. If a participant must be replaced within twenty-four (24) hours of an event, a promoter may replace the participant that has been pulled with a new participant that has complied with the testing requirements found in subsection A of this section.

~~C. Notwithstanding the requirement for testing stated in subsection A of this section, the participant and opponent, ring~~

~~official, and ringside physician may agree, in writing, to waive the denial of licensure for failure to timely submit the required certified test results, and by such signed written agreement, the participant and opponent shall be granted a license to participate in their particular contest.~~

SECTION 7. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

Passed the House of Representatives the 18th day of March, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 28th day of April, 2025.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

