

By: Goolsby

H.B. No. 2546

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the combative sports program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 2052.002, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2052.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Amateur" means a person who has never received or competed for any purse or other thing of value, including reimbursement for expenses related to training or to participation in a combative sports event, that exceeded the maximum amount established by an amateur combative sports association.

(2) "Amateur combative sports association" means an organization that has nonprofit status under the laws of this state or under federal law and that produces, arranges, advertises, conducts, or stages combative sports events in which all the contestants are amateurs.

(3) "Boxing" means to compete with the fists.

(4) "Combative sports" means sports, including boxing, kickboxing, martial arts, and mixed martial arts, where participants voluntarily engage in full contact to score points, to cause an opponent to submit, or to disable an opponent in a contest, match, or exhibition. The term does not include student training or exhibitions of students' skills conducted by martial arts schools, or associations of schools, where the students' participation is

1 for health and recreational purposes rather than competition and  
2 where the intent is to use only partial contact [includes  
3 ~~kickboxing, in which a person delivers blows with any part of the~~  
4 ~~arm below the shoulder, including the hand, and any part of the leg~~  
5 ~~below the hip, including the foot.~~

6 ~~[(2) "Boxing promoter" means a person who arranges,~~  
7 ~~advertises, or conducts a boxing event.~~

8 ~~[(3) "Championship tournament" means a state,~~  
9 ~~regional, national, or international elimination tournament in~~  
10 ~~which the winners of elimination tournaments compete for a~~  
11 ~~championship in each weight category].~~

12 (5) ~~[(4)]~~ "Commission" means the Texas Commission of  
13 Licensing and Regulation.

14 (6) "Contest" means a combative sports engagement in  
15 which the participants strive earnestly to win.

16 (7) ~~[(5)]~~ "Department" means the Texas Department of  
17 Licensing and Regulation.

18 (8) ~~[(6)]~~ "Elimination tournament" means a combative  
19 sports [~~boxing~~] contest in which [~~elimination tournament~~]  
20 contestants compete in a series of matches until not more than one  
21 contestant remains in any weight category. The term does not  
22 include an [~~a boxing~~] event described by Section 2052.110.

23 (9) ~~[(7) "Elimination tournament boxing promoter"~~  
24 ~~means a person who arranges, advertises, or conducts an elimination~~  
25 ~~tournament.~~

26 ~~[(8) "Elimination tournament contestant" means a~~  
27 ~~person who competes in an elimination tournament.~~

1           ~~[(8-a)]~~ "Executive director" means the executive  
2 director of the department or the executive director's designated  
3 representative.

4           (10) ~~[(9)]~~ "Exhibition" means a combative sports  
5 ~~[boxing or wrestling]~~ skills demonstration.

6           (11) ~~[(10)]~~ "Event" means a contest, match, or  
7 exhibition.

8           (12) ~~[(11)]~~ "Judge" means a person who is~~+~~  
9           ~~[(A) located at ringside during a boxing match;~~  
10 ~~and~~

11           ~~[(B)]~~ responsible for scoring the performances  
12 of the participants in a ~~[the]~~ match.

13           (13) "Kickboxing" means to compete by delivering blows  
14 with the fists, arms, feet, legs, or any combination thereof.

15           (14) "Martial arts" means any one of the individual  
16 disciplines described by rule adopted by the commission in which  
17 the contestants engage in unarmed combat using the applicable  
18 techniques to grapple with, kick, or strike an opponent to win a  
19 contest by causing an opponent to submit or by scoring points  
20 against or disabling an opponent.

21           (15) "Match" means any contest or exhibition.

22           (16) "Mixed martial arts" means unarmed combat  
23 involving the use of a combination of techniques from different  
24 disciplines of the martial arts including grappling, kicking, and  
25 striking and may include the use of full, unrestrained physical  
26 force.

27           (17) ~~[(12)]~~ ~~"Local tournament" means an elimination~~

1 ~~tournament in which only a resident of this state may compete.~~

2           ~~(13)~~ "Professional combative sports contestant  
3 ~~[boxer]~~" means a person who competes in a combative sports ~~[boxing]~~  
4 event in this state conducted for a purse or compensation.

5           (18) ~~(13-a)~~ "Promoter" means any person who  
6 produces, arranges, advertises, conducts, or stages a combative  
7 sports event ~~[a boxing promoter or wrestling promoter].~~

8           (19) ~~(14)~~ "Referee" means a person who:

9                   (A) is present in the ring during a match ~~[boxing~~  
10 ~~event]~~; and

11                   (B) exercises general supervision of the match  
12 ~~[event]~~.

13           ~~(20)~~ ~~(15)~~ ~~"Regional tournament" means an elimination~~  
14 ~~tournament in which a contestant from outside of the immediate area~~  
15 ~~in which the tournament is conducted may compete against local~~  
16 ~~contestants.~~

17           ~~(15-a)~~ "Ringside physician" means an individual  
18 licensed to practice medicine in this state who is registered with  
19 the department.

20           ~~(16)~~ ~~"Wrestling promoter" means a person who~~  
21 ~~arranges, advertises, or conducts a wrestling event.]~~

22           SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 2052.052, Occupations  
23 Code, is amended to read as follows:

24           (b) The commission may adopt rules:

25                   (1) governing boxing, ~~[professional]~~ kickboxing,  
26 martial arts, or mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions;

27                   (2) establishing reasonable qualifications for an

1 applicant seeking a license or registration from the department  
2 under this chapter;

3 (3) recognizing a sanction, medical suspension, or  
4 disqualification of a licensee or registrant [~~license holder~~] by a  
5 combative sports authority in any state, provided that if licensure  
6 or registration is denied based on those actions, an applicant has  
7 an opportunity for [~~a right to~~] a hearing as prescribed by rule;

8 (4) establishing practice requirements or specialty  
9 certifications that a person licensed to practice medicine in this  
10 state must meet to register as a ringside physician;

11 (5) requiring a contestant to present with an  
12 application for licensure or license renewal documentation [~~to the~~  
13 ~~executive director at the time of weigh-in an original copy~~] of  
14 recent blood test results that demonstrate whether the contestant  
15 is free from hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, human  
16 immunodeficiency virus, and any other communicable disease  
17 designated by commission rule and providing that a contestant's  
18 failure to provide the required blood test results disqualifies the  
19 contestant;

20 (6) providing that to participate in any event a  
21 contestant must be free of hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus,  
22 human immunodeficiency virus, and any other communicable disease  
23 designated by rule;

24 (7) requiring that a contestant present with an  
25 application for licensure or license renewal documentation of the  
26 results of [~~undergo~~] a physical examination, including an  
27 ophthalmologic [~~ophthalmological~~] examination, [~~at or near the time~~

1 ~~of weigh-in]~~ and providing for disqualification of a contestant who  
2 is determined by an examining physician to be unfit; ~~[and]~~

3 (8) establishing additional responsibilities for  
4 promoters; and

5 (9) governing regulated amateur events.

6 SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 2052.055, Occupations  
7 Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The presiding officer of the commission, with the  
9 commission's approval, may appoint a medical advisory committee to  
10 advise the department concerning health issues for combative sports  
11 ~~[boxing]~~ event contestants.

12 SECTION 4. Section 2052.101, Occupations Code, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 2052.101. ~~[BOXING]~~ PROMOTER LICENSE. A person may not  
15 act as a ~~[boxing]~~ promoter ~~[or an elimination tournament boxing~~  
16 ~~promoter]~~ unless the person holds the appropriate ~~[a]~~ license  
17 issued under this chapter.

18 SECTION 5. The heading to Section 2052.102, Occupations  
19 Code, is amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 2052.102. ~~[BOXING]~~ PROMOTER LICENSE APPLICATION  
21 REQUIREMENTS.

22 SECTION 6. Subsection (a), Section 2052.102, Occupations  
23 Code, is amended to read as follows:

24 (a) An applicant for a ~~[boxing]~~ promoter's license under  
25 this chapter must apply on a form furnished by the executive  
26 director.

27 SECTION 7. Section 2052.107, Occupations Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 2052.107. OTHER COMBATIVE SPORTS [~~BOXING~~] LICENSES.

3 Unless a person holds a license or registration issued under this  
4 chapter, the person may not act as a combative sports:

- 5 (1) professional contestant [~~boxer~~];
- 6 (2) manager of a professional contestant [~~boxer~~];
- 7 (3) referee;
- 8 (4) judge;
- 9 (5) second;
- 10 (6) timekeeper;
- 11 (7) matchmaker; or
- 12 (8) ringside physician.

13 SECTION 8. Section 2052.110, Occupations Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 2052.110. LICENSE AND BONDING EXCEPTIONS. If the  
16 contestants are amateurs, the [~~The~~] licensing and bonding  
17 requirements of this chapter [~~subchapter~~] do not apply to:

18 (1) [~~a boxing event in which the participants do not~~  
19 ~~receive a money remuneration, purse, or prize for their~~  
20 ~~performances or services if the event is promoted, conducted, or~~  
21 ~~maintained by:~~

- 22 [~~(A) an educational institution,~~
- 23 [~~(B) a law enforcement organization,~~
- 24 [~~(C) a Texas National Guard Unit, or~~
- 25 [~~(D) an amateur athletic organization recognized~~  
26 ~~by the executive director,~~

27 [~~(2) an event conducted by a nonprofit amateur~~

1 ~~athletic association chartered under the law of this state,~~  
2 ~~including a membership club affiliated with the association located~~  
3 ~~within this state and recognized by the executive director,~~

4           ~~(3)~~ an event conducted by a college, school, or  
5 university that is part of the institution's athletic program in  
6 which only students of ~~[different]~~ educational institutions  
7 participate;

8           (2) ~~(4)~~ an event which is conducted by ~~[in which~~  
9 ~~only members of]~~ a troop, battery, company, or unit of the Texas  
10 National Guard or a law enforcement agency, and in which only  
11 members of military or law enforcement organizations participate;

12 or

13           (3) ~~(5)~~ an event which is conducted by an  
14 organization of the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, or the  
15 Pan-American Games and in which participants train or compete for  
16 advancement to or within the games.

17           SECTION 9. Section 2052.111, Occupations Code, is amended  
18 to read as follows:

19           Sec. 2052.111. DENIAL OF APPLICATION. The executive  
20 director may deny an application for a license or registration if:

21           (1) the applicant does not meet the qualifications for  
22 the license or registration; or

23           (2) after conducting an investigation and providing an  
24 opportunity for a hearing, the executive director determines that  
25 the applicant has violated this chapter or a rule adopted under this  
26 chapter.

27           SECTION 10. Section 2052.113, Occupations Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2           Sec. 2052.113. LICENSE AND PERMIT REQUIRED FOR CLOSED  
3 CIRCUIT [~~BOXING~~] TELECAST. A person who exhibits in this state a  
4 simultaneous telecast of a live, spontaneous, or current combative  
5 sports [~~boxing~~] event on a closed circuit telecast in which a fee is  
6 charged for admission to the telecast must:

7           (1) hold a [~~boxing~~] promoter's license under this  
8 chapter; and

9           (2) obtain a permit for the closed circuit telecast.

10           SECTION 11. Subchapter C, Chapter 2052, Occupations Code,  
11 is amended by adding Sections 2052.116 and 2052.117 to read as  
12 follows:

13           Sec. 2052.116. AMATEUR COMBATIVE SPORTS ASSOCIATION  
14 REGISTRATION. A person may not act as an amateur combative sports  
15 association unless the person is registered under this chapter.

16           Sec. 2052.117. AMATEUR COMBATIVE SPORTS ASSOCIATION  
17 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS. (a) An applicant for registration as  
18 an amateur combative sports association must apply on a form  
19 acceptable to the executive director.

20           (b) An application must be accompanied by:

21           (1) a registration fee in the amount set by the  
22 commission;

23           (2) proof of compliance with requirements established  
24 by rule for:

25                   (A) insurance; and

26                   (B) surety bonds, if any;

27                   (3) a copy of the rules of the association

1 establishing standards of conduct for contestants and officials;  
2 and

3 (4) proof that the association is recognized or  
4 organized as a nonprofit organization under the laws of this state  
5 or has such status under federal law.

6 (c) Rules of the association must be approved by the  
7 department.

8 SECTION 12. Section 2052.151, Occupations Code, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 2052.151. IMPOSITION AND RATE OF TAX. (a) A tax is  
11 imposed on a person who:

12 (1) conducts a combative sports [boxing] event~~[,~~  
13 ~~including an elimination tournament,~~] in which a fee is charged for  
14 admission to the event; or

15 (2) exhibits in this state a simultaneous telecast of  
16 a live, spontaneous, or current combative sports [boxing] event on  
17 a closed circuit telecast, in which a fee is charged for admission  
18 to the telecast~~[, or~~

19 ~~[(3) conducts or sponsors an amateur boxing event,~~  
20 ~~other than an event exempt from licensing under Section~~  
21 ~~2052.110(2), (3), (4), or (5), in which a fee is charged for~~  
22 ~~admission to the event].~~

23 (b) The ~~[rate of the]~~ tax is three percent of the gross  
24 receipts obtained from the sale of tickets to the event, plus three  
25 percent of gross receipts received from sales of broadcast rights  
26 or \$30,000, whichever is less.

27 SECTION 13. Subsections (a) and (b), Section 2052.152,

1 Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

2 (a) A person on whom a tax is imposed under Section  
3 2052.151, not later than three business days [~~72 hours~~] after the  
4 end of the event or telecast for which the tax is due, shall submit  
5 to the department a verified report on a form acceptable to  
6 [~~furnished by~~] the department stating:

7 (1) the number of tickets sold to the event;

8 (2) the ticket prices charged;

9 (3) the gross price charged for the sale or lease of  
10 broadcasting, television, and motion picture rights without any  
11 deductions for commissions, brokerage fees, distribution fees,  
12 advertising, or other expenses or charges; and

13 (4) the amount of gross receipts obtained from the  
14 event.

15 (b) The person shall attach to the report a cashier's check,  
16 check, or money order payable to this state in the amount of the tax  
17 imposed on the event covered by the report.

18 SECTION 14. Section 2052.153, Occupations Code, is amended  
19 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 2052.153. CLOSED CIRCUIT TELECAST. A person  
21 exhibiting a simultaneous telecast of a live, spontaneous, or  
22 current combative sports [~~boxing~~] event on a closed circuit  
23 telecast that occurs in Texas in which a fee is charged for  
24 admission to the exhibition:

25 (1) must:

26 (A) be a [~~boxing~~] promoter; and

27 (B) obtain a permit for each telecast exhibited;

1 and

2 (2) shall comply with the tax provisions of Sections  
3 ~~[Section]~~ 2052.151 and 2052.152.

4 SECTION 15. Section 2052.251, Occupations Code, is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 2052.251. ~~[BOXING]~~ GLOVES. A combative sports  
7 ~~[boxing]~~ event contestant ~~[, other than an elimination tournament~~  
8 ~~contestant under Subchapter E,]~~ shall wear ~~[eight-ounce boxing]~~  
9 gloves of the type and weight specified by commission rule, unless  
10 the commission by applicable rule requires or permits contestants  
11 ~~[a contestant]~~ to not wear ~~[heavier]~~ gloves.

12 SECTION 16. Section 2052.252, Occupations Code, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 2052.252. REGULATED ~~[CERTAIN]~~ AMATEUR EVENTS.

15 (a) This section applies to an amateur combative sports ~~[boxing]~~  
16 event, other than an event described by Section 2052.110  
17 ~~[2052.110(2), (3), (4), or (5) or an elimination tournament subject~~  
18 ~~to Subchapter E]~~, in which a fee is charged for admission to the  
19 event.

20 (b) The amateur combative sports association sponsoring or  
21 producing the event shall register with the department not later  
22 than 30 days before the date the event begins.

23 (c) The event may take place only if the executive director  
24 approves the event not later than seven days before the date the  
25 event begins.

26 (d) ~~[(c)]~~ Each contestant ~~[entry]~~ in the event must have  
27 been a member of the amateur combative sports association for the

1 30-day period immediately preceding [~~be filed with the amateur~~  
2 ~~organization not later than the third day before~~] the date the event  
3 begins and must be a member on the date of the event.

4 (e) [~~(d)~~] The amateur combative sports association  
5 [~~organization~~] shall determine the amateur standing of the event  
6 contestants and shall establish training programs consisting of at  
7 least 30 days of training for each contestant.

8 (f) [~~(e)~~] The event is subject to the supervision of the  
9 executive director.

10 [~~(f) All profits from the event must be used to develop~~  
11 ~~amateur athletics.~~]

12 (g) [~~Only a referee or judge licensed under this chapter may~~  
13 ~~participate in the event.~~]

14 [~~(h)~~] Each contestant participating in the event must be  
15 examined by a licensed physician within a reasonable time before  
16 the event begins. A licensed physician must be present at ringside  
17 during the entire event.

18 (h) [~~(i)~~] A professional combative sports contestant  
19 [~~boxer~~] licensed under this chapter may not participate as a  
20 contestant [~~in any capacity~~] in the event.

21 SECTION 17. Subchapter F, Chapter 2052, Occupations Code,  
22 is amended by adding Section 2052.254 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 2052.254. ELIMINATION TOURNAMENTS. An elimination  
24 tournament may not be conducted in this state.

25 SECTION 18. The following provisions of the Occupations  
26 Code are repealed:

27 (1) Sections 2052.103, 2052.105, and 2052.106; and

1                   (2) Subchapter E, Chapter 2052.

2                   SECTION 19. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.