

By: Carona

S.B. No. 618

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the elimination of the licensing and registration
3 requirements for ringside physicians and timekeepers for combative
4 sports events.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subdivision (20), Section 2052.002, Occupations
7 Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 (20) "Ringside physician" means an individual who has
9 an unrestricted and unlimited license [~~licensed~~] to practice
10 medicine in this state and who, by agreement, is assigned as the
11 physician for a combative sports event [~~registered with the~~
12 ~~department~~].

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

15 (b) The commission may adopt rules:

16 (1) governing boxing, kickboxing, martial arts, or
17 mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions;

18 (2) establishing reasonable qualifications for an
19 applicant seeking a license or registration from the department
20 under this chapter;

21 (3) recognizing a sanction, medical suspension, or
22 disqualification of a licensee or registrant by a combative sports
23 authority in any state, provided that if licensure or registration
24 is denied based on those actions, an applicant has an opportunity

1 for a hearing as prescribed by rule;

2 (4) establishing selection criteria and procedures
3 for the assignment of individuals who agree to act as ringside
4 physicians and timekeepers for combative sports events [~~practice~~
5 ~~requirements or specialty certifications that a person licensed to~~
6 ~~practice medicine in this state must meet to register as a ringside~~
7 ~~physician~~];

8 (5) requiring a contestant to present with an
9 application for licensure or license renewal documentation of
10 recent blood test results that demonstrate whether the contestant
11 is free from hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, human
12 immunodeficiency virus, and any other communicable disease
13 designated by commission rule and providing that a contestant's
14 failure to provide the required blood test results disqualifies the
15 contestant;

16 (6) providing that to participate in any event a
17 contestant must be free of hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus,
18 human immunodeficiency virus, and any other communicable disease
19 designated by rule;

20 (7) requiring that a contestant present with an
21 application for licensure or license renewal documentation of the
22 results of a physical examination, including an ophthalmologic
23 examination, and providing for disqualification of a contestant who
24 is determined by an examining physician to be unfit;

25 (8) establishing additional responsibilities for
26 promoters; and

27 (9) governing regulated amateur events.

1 SECTION 3. Section 2052.107, Occupations Code, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 2052.107. OTHER COMBATIVE SPORTS LICENSES. Unless a
4 person holds a license or registration issued under this chapter,
5 the person may not act as a combative sports:

- 6 (1) professional contestant;
- 7 (2) manager of a professional contestant;
- 8 (3) referee;
- 9 (4) judge;
- 10 (5) second;
- 11 (6) ~~timekeeper,~~
- 12 ~~[(7)]~~ matchmaker;
- 13 ~~[(8) —ringside physician,]~~ or
- 14 (7) ~~[(9)]~~ event coordinator.

15 SECTION 4. (a) A disciplinary or administrative
16 proceeding pending under Chapter 51 or 2052, Occupations Code, that
17 is related to a violation of licensing or registration requirements
18 for a timekeeper or ringside physician under Chapter 2052,
19 Occupations Code, as that chapter existed immediately before the
20 effective date of this Act, is dismissed.

21 (b) An administrative penalty assessed by the Texas
22 Commission of Licensing and Regulation or the executive director of
23 the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation under Chapter
24 2052, Occupations Code, related to a violation of Chapter 2052,
25 Occupations Code, as that chapter existed immediately before the
26 effective date of this Act, may be collected as provided by Chapter
27 51, Occupations Code.

1 (c) The change in law made by this Act does not affect the
2 pending prosecution of an offense under Chapter 2052, Occupations
3 Code, as that chapter existed immediately before the effective date
4 of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this
5 Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the offense was
6 committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that
7 purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed
8 before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense
9 occurred before that date.

10 (d) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this
11 Act, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation shall return
12 a prorated portion of the fee paid to the department for the
13 issuance or renewal of the registration or license to a person who
14 holds a valid registration as a ringside physician or timekeeper
15 issued under Chapter 2052, Occupations Code, as that chapter
16 existed immediately before the effective date of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.