

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS AND INDIAN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL 444

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

AN ACT

RELATING TO ATHLETIC COMPETITION; TRANSFERRING NEW MEXICO  
ATHLETIC COMMISSION AUTHORITY TO THE REGULATION AND LICENSING  
DEPARTMENT; EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF COMMISSION MEMBERS;  
CHANGING COMMISSION COMPOSITION; PERMITTING THE FORMATION OF  
COMMITTEES; ELIMINATING THE MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD; ADDING  
LICENSING CATEGORIES; AMENDING THE TYPES OF FEES DEDICATED TO  
THE ATHLETIC COMMISSION FUND; AMENDING AND REPEALING SECTIONS  
OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 60-2A-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
Chapter 90, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"60-2A-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Professional  
Athletic Competition Act:

[A. "board" means the medical advisory board;

1           ~~B.]~~ A. "closed circuit telecast" means a telecast  
2 that is not intended to be available for viewing without the  
3 payment of a fee, including a pay-per-view telecast, podcast,  
4 webcast, streaming media or any electronic transmission to an  
5 arena, bar, lounge, club, entertainment or meeting center or  
6 private residence;

7           ~~[E.]~~ B. "commission" means the New Mexico athletic  
8 commission;

9           ~~[D.]~~ C. "contestant" means a person who engages in  
10 unarmed combat for remuneration;

11           ~~[E.]~~ D. "department" means the regulation and  
12 licensing department;

13           E. "event coordinator" means a person who oversees  
14 the detailed requirements of the Professional Athletic  
15 Competition Act on behalf of the promoter before, during and  
16 after the exhibition;

17           F. "exhibition" means any contest or portion of a  
18 fight card, bout or event in any form of unarmed combat  
19 regulated by the ~~[commission and conducted, held or televised~~  
20 ~~on a closed circuit telecast originating in New Mexico]~~  
21 department;

22           G. "foreign co-promoter" means a promoter who has  
23 no place of business in this state;

24           H. "manager":

25                 (1) means a person who:

1 (a) undertakes to represent the  
2 interests of another person by contract, agreement or other  
3 arrangement in procuring, arranging or conducting a  
4 professional contest or exhibition in which the represented  
5 person will participate as a contestant;

6 (b) directs or controls the activities  
7 of an unarmed combatant relating to the participation of the  
8 unarmed combatant in professional contests or exhibitions;

9 (c) receives or is entitled to receive  
10 at least ten percent of the gross purse or gross income of any  
11 professional unarmed combatant for services relating to the  
12 participation of the unarmed combatant in a professional  
13 contest or exhibition; or

14 (d) receives compensation for services  
15 as an agent or representative of an unarmed combatant; and

16 (2) does not include an attorney who is  
17 licensed to practice law in this state if the attorney's  
18 participation in any of the activities described in Paragraph  
19 (1) of this subsection is limited solely to the legal  
20 representation of a client who is an unarmed combatant;

21 I. "professional boxer" means an individual who  
22 competes for money, prizes or purses or who teaches, pursues or  
23 assists in the practice of boxing as a means of obtaining a  
24 livelihood or pecuniary gain;

25 J. "professional contest" means any professional

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1 boxing, professional kickboxing, professional martial arts,  
2 professional mixed martial arts or sports entertainment  
3 wrestling contest or exhibition, whether or not an admission  
4 fee is charged for admission of the public;

5 K. "professional kickboxer" means an individual who  
6 competes for money, prizes or purses or who teaches, pursues or  
7 assists in the practice of kickboxing as a means of obtaining a  
8 livelihood or pecuniary gain;

9 L. "professional martial artist" means an  
10 individual who competes for money, prizes or purses or who  
11 teaches, pursues or assists in the practice of martial arts as  
12 a means of obtaining a livelihood or pecuniary gain;

13 M. "professional mixed martial artist" means an  
14 individual who competes for money, prizes or purses or who  
15 teaches, pursues or assists in the practice of mixed martial  
16 arts as a means of obtaining a livelihood or pecuniary gain;

17 N. "promoter" means any person, and in the case of  
18 a corporate promoter includes any officer, director or  
19 stockholder of the corporation, who produces or stages any  
20 professional boxing, professional kickboxing, professional  
21 martial arts, professional mixed martial arts or sports  
22 entertainment wrestling contest, exhibition or closed circuit  
23 [~~television show~~] telecast;

24 O. "purse" means the financial guarantee or any  
25 other remuneration, or part thereof, for which professional

1 boxers, professional kickboxers, professional martial artists,  
2 professional mixed martial artists or sports entertainment  
3 wrestlers are participating in a contest or exhibition and  
4 includes the participant's share of any payment received for  
5 radio broadcasting, television or motion picture rights;

6 P. "ring official" means any person who performs an  
7 official function during the progress of a contest or  
8 exhibition;

9 Q. "sanctioning organization" means an organization  
10 whose rules for a particular unarmed combat contest are  
11 recognized by the commission;

12 [~~Q-~~] R. "sports entertainment wrestler" means an  
13 individual who competes for money, prizes or purses or who  
14 teaches, pursues or assists in the practice of sports  
15 entertainment wrestling as a means of obtaining a livelihood or  
16 pecuniary gain;

17 [~~R-~~] S. "sports entertainment wrestling" means an  
18 activity in which participants struggle hand-to-hand primarily  
19 for the purpose of providing entertainment to spectators rather  
20 than conducting a bona fide athletic contest;

21 T. "technical zone" means the area between the ring  
22 apron and the first row of seats;

23 [~~S-~~] U. "unarmed combat" means boxing, kickboxing,  
24 martial arts, mixed martial arts, competitive wrestling, sports  
25 entertainment wrestling or any form of competition in which a

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1 blow is usually struck that may reasonably be expected to  
2 inflict injury; and

3 ~~[F.]~~ V. "unarmed combatant" means:

4 (1) a person who engages in unarmed combat in  
5 a contest or exhibition, whether or not the person receives  
6 remuneration, including a boxer, kickboxer, martial artist,  
7 mixed martial artist, competitive wrestler, sports  
8 entertainment wrestler or other contestant; or

9 (2) an amateur boxer who is registered with  
10 United States amateur boxing, incorporated, or any other  
11 amateur organization recognized by the commission and  
12 participates in an amateur boxing contest or exhibition in the  
13 state that is registered and sanctioned by United States  
14 amateur boxing, incorporated, or golden gloves of America."

15 SECTION 2. Section 60-2A-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
16 Chapter 90, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

17 "60-2A-3. COMMISSION CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--TERMS--  
18 RESTRICTIONS.--

19 A. There is created the "New Mexico athletic  
20 commission". The commission [~~shall be~~] is administratively  
21 attached to the department.

22 B. The commission shall [~~consist of five members~~  
23 ~~who are New Mexico residents and who are appointed by the~~  
24 ~~governor. Three of the members shall have experience in the~~  
25 ~~professional sports and the other two members shall represent~~

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1 ~~the public. The public members shall not have been licensed or~~  
2 ~~have any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the~~  
3 ~~profession regulated. The members shall be appointed for~~  
4 ~~staggered terms of four years each. Each member shall hold~~  
5 ~~office until the expiration of the term for which appointed or~~  
6 ~~until a successor has been appointed. Not more than three~~  
7 ~~members of the commission shall be appointed from the same~~  
8 ~~political party. No commission member shall serve more than~~  
9 ~~two full terms consecutively.~~

10 ~~C. No member shall at any time during his~~  
11 ~~membership on the commission promote or sponsor any~~  
12 ~~professional contest or have any financial interest in the~~  
13 ~~promotion or sponsorship of any professional contest] advise~~  
14 ~~the department, the legislature and the governor to promote the~~  
15 ~~growth of unarmed combat sports in New Mexico.~~

16 C. The commission consists of seven members who are  
17 New Mexico residents and who are appointed by the governor.  
18 Two members shall have experience promoting sporting events or  
19 shall have participated in unarmed combat sporting events as a  
20 contestant. One member shall be a New Mexico-licensed  
21 attorney. One member shall be a licensed medical professional.  
22 The other three members shall represent the public. The public  
23 members shall not have been licensed or have a financial  
24 interest, direct or indirect, in the profession regulated. The  
25 members shall be appointed for staggered terms of four years

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1 each. Each member shall hold office until the expiration of  
2 the term for which that member was appointed or until a  
3 successor has been appointed. No more than four members of the  
4 commission shall be appointed from the same political party. A  
5 commission member shall not serve more than two full terms  
6 consecutively."

7 SECTION 3. Section 60-2A-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
8 Chapter 90, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

9 "60-2A-4. [~~CHAIRMAN~~] CHAIR--RULES--DUTIES--COMMITTEES.--

10 A. The commission shall elect annually in December  
11 a [~~chairman~~] chair and such other officers as it deems  
12 necessary. The commission shall meet as often as necessary for  
13 the conduct of business, but no less than twice a year.  
14 Meetings shall be called by the [~~chairman~~] chair or upon the  
15 written request of three or more members of the commission.  
16 [~~Three~~] Four members, at least one of whom is a public member,  
17 shall constitute a quorum.

18 B. The commission may adopt, purchase and use a  
19 seal.

20 C. The commission may [~~adopt~~] recommend rules to be  
21 adopted by the department, subject to the provisions of the  
22 State Rules Act, for the administration of the Professional  
23 Athletic Competition Act not inconsistent with the provisions  
24 of the Professional Athletic Competition Act. The rules shall  
25 include [~~but not be limited to the:~~

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1                   ~~(1) number and qualifications of ring~~  
2 ~~officials required in a professional contest;~~  
3                   ~~(2) powers, duties and compensation of ring~~  
4 ~~officials; and~~  
5                   ~~(3) qualifications of licensees]~~ the  
6 qualifications for licensees.

7                   D. The commission [~~shall prepare all forms of~~  
8 ~~contracts between sponsors, licensees, promoters and~~  
9 ~~contestants]~~ may establish committees as the commission deems  
10 necessary to fulfill its duties. Committees may include other  
11 public members, but all committees shall be chaired by a member  
12 of the commission. The public members of the committee shall  
13 serve without compensation."

14                   SECTION 4. Section 60-2A-8.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
15 Chapter 109, Section 2) is amended to read:

16                   "60-2A-8.2. JURISDICTION OF [~~COMMISSION~~] DEPARTMENT OVER  
17 UNARMED COMBAT CONTESTS--APPROVAL OF SANCTIONING  
18 ORGANIZATIONS.--

19                   A. The [~~commission~~] department shall have sole  
20 direction, management, control and jurisdiction over all  
21 contests or exhibitions of unarmed combat to be conducted, held  
22 or given within New Mexico, and no contest or exhibition may be  
23 conducted, held or given within the state except in accordance  
24 with the provisions of the Professional Athletic Competition  
25 Act.

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1                   B. The commission may approve one or more  
2 sanctioning organizations for professional or amateur unarmed  
3 combat. A sanctioning organization approved by the commission  
4 shall report to the commission the results of all contests or  
5 exhibitions sanctioned by the sanctioning organization.

6                   [~~B.~~] C. Any contest involving a form of [~~Oriental~~]  
7 unarmed [~~self-defense~~] combat must be conducted pursuant to  
8 rules for that form that are approved by the commission before  
9 the contest is conducted, held or given in the state except in  
10 accordance with the provisions of the Professional Athletic  
11 Competition Act."

12                   SECTION 5. Section 60-2A-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
13 Chapter 90, Section 9) is amended to read:

14                   "60-2A-9. LICENSES TO CONDUCT PROFESSIONAL CONTESTS.--

15                   A. The [~~commission~~] department may issue licenses  
16 to conduct, hold or give a professional contest to any promoter  
17 under such terms and in accordance with such rules as the  
18 commission may adopt.

19                   B. Any application for [~~such~~] a license shall be in  
20 writing and shall correctly show the promoter. The application  
21 shall be accompanied by the annual fee prescribed by law.

22                   C. Before any license is granted to a promoter, the  
23 promoter must file a bond in an amount fixed by the commission  
24 but not less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) with good and  
25 sufficient surety and conditioned for the faithful performance

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1 by the promoter of the provisions of the Professional Athletic  
 2 Competition Act."

3 SECTION 6. Section 60-2A-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
 4 Chapter 90, Section 10, as amended) is amended to read:

5 "60-2A-10. LICENSES FOR PROMOTERS, BOXERS, TRAINERS, RING  
 6 OFFICIALS AND OTHERS.--

7 A. All promoters, foreign co-promoters,  
 8 matchmakers, professional boxers, professional kickboxers,  
 9 professional martial artists, professional mixed martial  
 10 artists, sports entertainment wrestlers, managers, seconds,  
 11 announcers, referees, trainers, booking agents, event  
 12 coordinators and timekeepers shall be licensed by the  
 13 [~~commission~~] department.

14 B. No person shall be permitted to participate  
 15 either directly or indirectly in any professional contest  
 16 unless the person has first procured a license from the  
 17 [~~commission~~].

18 ~~C. Any person violating the provisions of this~~  
 19 ~~section is guilty of a petty misdemeanor] department."~~

20 SECTION 7. Section 60-2A-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
 21 Chapter 90, Section 11) is amended to read:

22 "60-2A-11. LICENSES FOR PHYSICIANS.--The [~~commission~~]  
 23 department may issue licenses without fees to physicians,  
 24 authorizing them to [~~officiate~~] monitor and evaluate  
 25 participants and confer with the referee when necessary at

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1 professional contests."

2 SECTION 8. Section 60-2A-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
3 Chapter 90, Section 12, as amended) is amended to read:

4 "60-2A-12. LICENSE FEES.--

5 A. The annual license fee shall not exceed the  
6 following amounts:

- 7 (1) promoters . . . . . \$500.00
- 8 (2) foreign co-promoters . . . . . 750.00
- 9 (3) referees . . . . . 75.00
- 10 (4) timekeepers and announcers . . . . . 75.00
- 11 (5) seconds and trainers . . . . . 75.00
- 12 (6) managers . . . . . 75.00
- 13 (7) professional boxers . . . . . 75.00
- 14 (8) professional kickboxers . . . . . 75.00
- 15 (9) booking agents . . . . . 75.00
- 16 (10) matchmakers . . . . . 75.00
- 17 (11) judges . . . . . 75.00
- 18 (12) professional mixed martial artists 75.00
- 19 (13) amateur mixed martial artists . . . 75.00
- 20 (14) professional martial artists . . . 75.00
- 21 (15) sports entertainment wrestlers . . 75.00
- 22 (16) event coordinators . . . . . 75.00.

23 Every license shall expire at midnight on December 31 of  
24 the year in which the license is issued.

25 B. An unarmed combatant may hold a professional

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1 license in one [~~commission~~] licensing category while  
 2 maintaining amateur status in other unarmed combat  
 3 disciplines."

4 SECTION 9. Section 60-2A-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
 5 Chapter 90, Section 13) is amended to read:

6 "60-2A-13. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST.--The [~~commission~~]  
 7 department shall not issue [~~any~~] a license for a professional  
 8 contest unless it is satisfied that the promoter is the real  
 9 party in interest and intends to conduct, hold or give [~~such~~  
 10 ~~contests himself~~] the contest or unless the promoter receives  
 11 at least twenty-five percent of the net receipts. A license  
 12 may be revoked at any time if the [~~commission~~] department finds  
 13 that the promoter is not the real party in interest."

14 SECTION 10. Section 60-2A-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
 15 Chapter 90, Section 14, as amended) is amended to read:

16 "60-2A-14. SUSPENSION--REVOCATION OF LICENSES.--

17 A. The [~~commission~~] department may suspend or  
 18 revoke [~~any~~] a license when in its judgment the licensee:

19 (1) participated in [~~any~~] a sham or fake  
 20 professional contest;

21 (2) is guilty of a failure to give [~~his~~] the  
 22 licensee's best efforts in a professional contest;

23 (3) is guilty of [~~any~~] a foul or  
 24 unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with a professional  
 25 contest; or

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1 (4) is guilty of participating in an event  
2 while under the influence of illegal drugs.

3 B. Before revocation of a license, the [~~commission~~]  
4 department shall afford the licensee opportunity for a hearing,  
5 and upon request of the licensee and after reasonable notice,  
6 the [~~commission~~] department shall conduct a hearing on the  
7 revocation, permitting the licensee to appear personally and by  
8 counsel, introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine  
9 witnesses.

10 C. [~~A majority vote of the members of the~~  
11 ~~commission is required to revoke a license.~~] The [~~commission~~]  
12 department shall file a written report of its findings,  
13 determinations and order with the record of the proceedings and  
14 shall send a copy [~~thereof~~] of the report to the licensee."

15 SECTION 11. Section 60-2A-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
16 Chapter 90, Section 15) is amended to read:

17 "60-2A-15. SUBPOENA POWER.--The [~~commission, on a vote~~  
18 ~~of the majority of the members thereof~~] department may issue  
19 subpoenas in connection with any investigation or hearing,  
20 requiring the attendance and testimony of any person or the  
21 production of books and papers of any licensee or other person  
22 whom the [~~commission~~] department believes to have information,  
23 books or papers of importance to the investigation or hearing."

24 SECTION 12. Section 60-2A-19 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
25 Chapter 90, Section 19, as amended) is amended to read:

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1 "60-2A-19. WITHHOLDING OF PURSE.--

2 A. The [~~commission~~] department or its executive  
 3 secretary may order a promoter to withhold a part of a purse or  
 4 other funds belonging or payable to a contestant, manager or  
 5 second if, in the judgment of the [~~commission~~] department or  
 6 the executive secretary, the contestant is not competing  
 7 honestly or to the best of the contestant's skill and ability  
 8 or if the manager or second has violated any of the provisions  
 9 of the Professional Athletic Competition Act or a rule  
 10 promulgated [~~under~~] pursuant to that act.

11 B. This section does not apply to any sports  
 12 entertainment wrestler who appears not to be competing honestly  
 13 or to the best of the wrestler's skill and ability.

14 C. Upon the withholding of a part of a purse  
 15 pursuant to this section, the commission shall immediately  
 16 schedule a hearing on the matter as promptly as possible. If  
 17 it is determined that the contestant, manager or second is not  
 18 entitled to a part of a share of the purse or other funds, the  
 19 promoter shall turn that money over to the commission, and it  
 20 shall become forfeit to the state and be disposed of as are  
 21 fees."

22 SECTION 13. Section 60-2A-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
 23 Chapter 90, Section 20) is amended to read:

24 "60-2A-20. ATTENDANCE AT WEIGH-INS--MEDICAL  
 25 EXAMINATIONS--PROFESSIONAL CONTESTS.--

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1           A. The executive secretary or a member of the  
2 commission shall be present at all weigh-ins [~~medical~~  
3 ~~examinations~~] and professional contests. [~~and~~] The executive  
4 secretary shall see that the provisions of the Professional  
5 Athletic Competition Act and the rules made pursuant [~~thereto~~]  
6 to that act are strictly enforced in consultation with an  
7 assigned commissioner.

8           B. Every [~~participant~~] contestant in a professional  
9 boxing contest shall be present and weighed in no later than  
10 twelve o'clock noon on the day of the professional contest.

11           C. The commissioners present at a fight shall not  
12 enter the technical zone."

13           SECTION 14. Section 60-2A-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
14 Chapter 90, Section 21, as amended) is amended to read:

15           "60-2A-21. LENGTH OF PROFESSIONAL CONTESTS--ROUNDS.--No  
16 professional boxing contest shall be more than [~~fifteen~~] twelve  
17 rounds in length, and each round shall not exceed three minutes  
18 in length. There shall be a one-minute rest between rounds.  
19 The commission shall adopt rules governing the length of  
20 professional kickboxing, professional martial arts,  
21 professional mixed martial arts and [~~sports entertainment~~]  
22 competitive wrestling contests, the duration of rounds and the  
23 period of rest between rounds."

24           SECTION 15. Section 60-2A-24 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
25 Chapter 90, Section 24, as amended) is amended to read:

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1           "60-2A-24. ATHLETIC COMMISSION FUND.--The proceeds of  
 2     ~~[the regulatory fee on promotions and of the supervisory fee on~~  
 3     ~~closed-circuit television or motion pictures, together with~~  
 4     ~~any]~~ license fees ~~[or other fees]~~ authorized pursuant to the  
 5     Professional Athletic Competition Act shall be deposited with  
 6     the state treasurer to the credit of the "athletic commission  
 7     fund", which is hereby created. Money in the fund is subject  
 8     to appropriation by the legislature. Expenditures from the  
 9     athletic commission fund shall only be made on vouchers issued  
 10    and signed by the person designated by the ~~[commission]~~  
 11    department upon warrants drawn by the department of finance and  
 12    administration in accordance with the budget approved by the  
 13    department of finance and administration."

14           SECTION 16. Section 60-2A-29 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,  
 15    Chapter 90, Section 29) is amended to read:

16           "60-2A-29. PENALTY.--~~[Any]~~ A person ~~[violating]~~ who  
 17    violates the provisions of the Professional Athletic  
 18    Competition Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction  
 19    ~~[therefor]~~ shall be punished, in the discretion of the court,  
 20    by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by  
 21    imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed three months or  
 22    by both such fine and imprisonment."

23           SECTION 17. Section 60-2A-31 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1981,  
 24    Chapter 327, Section 1) is amended to read:

25           "60-2A-31. BOXING HEADGEAR REQUIRED WHEN UNDER FIFTEEN

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1 YEARS OF AGE [PENALTY].--[A.] It is unlawful for any person to  
2 permit, promote or sponsor any person under the age of fifteen  
3 years to train as a boxer, engage in boxing matches or compete  
4 in school boxing exhibitions or events without wearing  
5 protective headgear.

6 [B. ~~Any person violating the provisions of~~  
7 ~~Subsection A of this section is guilty of a petty~~  
8 ~~misdemeanor.~~]"

9 SECTION 18. Section 60-2A-32 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983,  
10 Chapter 146, Section 1) is amended to read:

11 "60-2A-32. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR REQUIRED IN ALL AMATEUR  
12 BOXING.--

13 A. It is unlawful for any person to permit, sponsor  
14 or promote any amateur to train as a boxer, engage in boxing  
15 matches or compete in boxing events without wearing protective  
16 headgear meeting the standards approved under the official  
17 rules of the USA [amateur] boxing [federation] incorporated.

18 B. [Any] A person [violating] who violates the  
19 provisions of Subsection A of this section is guilty of a  
20 misdemeanor."

21 SECTION 19. Section 60-2A-34 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2017,  
22 Chapter 52, Section 1) is amended to read:

23 "60-2A-34. UNLICENSED ACTIVITY--DISCIPLINARY  
24 PROCEEDINGS--CIVIL PENALTY.--A person who is not licensed to  
25 engage in a professional athletic competition activity

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1 regulated by the [~~board~~] department is subject to disciplinary  
 2 proceedings by the [~~board~~] department as provided in the  
 3 Uniform Licensing Act. The provisions of Section 61-1-3.2 NMSA  
 4 1978 notwithstanding, the [~~board~~] department may impose a civil  
 5 penalty in an amount not to exceed two thousand dollars  
 6 (\$2,000) against a person who engages in a professional  
 7 athletic competition activity regulated by the [~~board~~]  
 8 department without a license. In addition, the [~~board~~]  
 9 department may assess the person for administrative costs,  
 10 including investigative costs and the cost of conducting a  
 11 hearing."

12 SECTION 20. Section 60-2A-36 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2024,  
 13 Chapter 30, Section 10) is amended to read:

14 "60-2A-36. PROFESSIONAL BOXING STATE CHAMPIONS AND  
 15 RANKED CONTENDERS.--

16 A. The commission shall declare a state champion  
 17 professional boxer in each weight class.

18 B. At least two times per year, the commission  
 19 shall publish a list of professional boxing top ten ranked  
 20 contenders in each weight class.

21 C. The professional boxing state champion shall  
 22 defend the championship title within six months of winning the  
 23 title and every six months thereafter against a challenger in  
 24 the champion's own weight class. If the champion does not  
 25 defend the title or cannot defend the title for physical

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1 reasons that are permanent, the commission shall forfeit the  
2 championship and declare the title vacant. In the case of a  
3 champion not defending a title within six months due to illness  
4 or injury that is not permanent, the champion shall submit to  
5 the commission a physician's report describing the illness or  
6 injury and an estimated time when the champion will be able to  
7 defend the championship title. It [~~will~~] shall be at the  
8 discretion of the commission, after considering the physician's  
9 report, whether a stay of the six-month title defense  
10 requirement [~~will~~] shall be permitted."

11 SECTION 21. REPEAL.--Sections 60-2A-7, 60-2A-23 and  
12 60-2A-25 through 60-2A-28 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980, Chapter  
13 90, Sections 7, 23 and 25 through 28, as amended) are repealed.