

1 HOUSE BILL 444

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Art De La Cruz and Antonio Maestas

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO ATHLETIC COMPETITION; TRANSFERRING NEW MEXICO
12 ATHLETIC COMMISSION AUTHORITY TO THE REGULATION AND LICENSING
13 DEPARTMENT; EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF COMMISSION MEMBERS;
14 CHANGING COMMISSION COMPOSITION; PERMITTING THE FORMATION OF
15 COMMITTEES; REQUIRING THE CREATION OF A MEDICAL ADVISORY
16 COMMITTEE; ELIMINATING THE MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD; ADDING
17 LICENSING CATEGORIES; AMENDING THE TYPES OF FEES DEDICATED TO
18 THE ATHLETIC COMMISSION FUND; REPEALING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA
19 1978; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

20
21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

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

24 "60-2A-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Professional
25 Athletic Competition Act:

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

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

8 ~~[C.]~~ B. "commission" means the New Mexico athletic
9 commission;

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

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

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

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

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

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, sports entertainment
25 wrestling or any form of competition in which a blow is usually

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1 struck that may reasonably be expected to inflict injury; and

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

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

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

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

16 "60-2A-3. COMMISSION CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--TERMS--
17 RESTRICTIONS.--

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

21 B. The commission shall [~~consist of five members~~
22 ~~who are New Mexico residents and who are appointed by the~~
23 ~~governor. Three of the members shall have experience in the~~
24 ~~professional sports and the other two members shall represent~~
25 ~~the public. The public members shall not have been licensed or~~

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1 ~~have any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the~~
2 ~~profession regulated. The members shall be appointed for~~
3 ~~staggered terms of four years each. Each member shall hold~~
4 ~~office until the expiration of the term for which appointed or~~
5 ~~until a successor has been appointed. Not more than three~~
6 ~~members of the commission shall be appointed from the same~~
7 ~~political party. No commission member shall serve more than~~
8 ~~two full terms consecutively] advise the department, the~~
9 ~~legislature and the governor to promote the growth of unarmed~~
10 ~~combat sports in New Mexico.~~

11 C. ~~[No member shall at any time during his~~
12 ~~membership on the commission promote or sponsor any~~
13 ~~professional contest or have any financial interest in the~~
14 ~~promotion or sponsorship of any professional contest.] The~~
15 ~~commission shall consist of seven members who are New Mexico~~
16 ~~residents and who are appointed by the governor. Two members~~
17 ~~shall have experience promoting sporting events or shall have~~
18 ~~participated in sporting events as a contestant. One member~~
19 ~~shall be a New Mexico-licensed attorney. One member shall be a~~
20 ~~licensed medical professional. The other three members shall~~
21 ~~represent the public. The public members shall not have been~~
22 ~~licensed or have a financial interest, direct or indirect, in~~
23 ~~the profession regulated. The members shall be appointed for~~
24 ~~staggered terms of four years each. Each member shall hold~~
25 ~~office until the expiration of the term for which that member~~

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1 was appointed or until a successor has been appointed. No more
2 than four members of the commission shall be appointed from the
3 same political party. A commission member shall not serve more
4 than two full terms consecutively."

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

7 "60-2A-4. [~~CHAIRMAN~~] CHAIR--RULES--DUTIES--COMMITTEES.--

8 A. The commission shall elect annually in December
9 a [~~chairman~~] chair and such other officers as it deems
10 necessary. The commission shall meet as often as necessary for
11 the conduct of business, but no less than twice a year.

12 Meetings shall be called by the [~~chairman~~] chair or upon the
13 written request of three or more members of the commission.

14 [~~Three~~] Four members, at least one of whom is a public member,
15 shall constitute a quorum.

16 B. The commission may adopt, purchase and use a
17 seal.

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

24 ~~(1) number and qualifications of ring~~
25 ~~officials required in a professional contest;~~

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1 ~~(2) powers, duties and compensation of ring~~
2 ~~officials; and~~

3 ~~(3) qualifications of licensees]~~ the
4 qualifications for licensees.

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

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

14 "60-2A-8.2. JURISDICTION OF [~~COMMISSION]~~ DEPARTMENT OVER
15 UNARMED COMBAT CONTESTS--APPROVAL OF SANCTIONING
16 ORGANIZATIONS.--

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

24 B. The commission may approve one or more
25 sanctioning organizations for professional or amateur unarmed

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1 combat. A sanctioning organization approved by the commission
2 shall report to the commission the results of all contests or
3 exhibitions sanctioned by the sanctioning organization.

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

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

12 "60-2A-9. LICENSES TO CONDUCT PROFESSIONAL CONTESTS.--

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

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

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

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

3 "60-2A-10. LICENSES FOR PROMOTERS, BOXERS, TRAINERS, RING
4 OFFICIALS AND OTHERS.--

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

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

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

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

20 "60-2A-11. LICENSES FOR PHYSICIANS.--The [~~commission~~]
21 department may issue licenses without fees to physicians,
22 authorizing them to [~~officiate~~] monitor and evaluate
23 participants and confer with the referee when necessary at
24 professional contests."

25 SECTION 8. Section 60-2A-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,

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1 Chapter 90, Section 12, as amended) is amended to read:

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

3 A. The annual license fee shall not exceed the
4 following amounts:

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

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

23 B. An unarmed combatant may hold a professional
24 license in one [~~commission~~] licensing category while
25 maintaining amateur status in other unarmed combat

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1 disciplines."

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

4 "60-2A-13. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST.--The [~~commission~~]
5 department shall not issue [~~any~~] a license for a professional
6 contest unless it is satisfied that the promoter is the real
7 party in interest and intends to conduct, hold or give [~~such~~
8 ~~contests himself~~] the contest or unless the promoter receives
9 at least twenty-five percent of the net receipts. A license
10 may be revoked at any time if the [~~commission~~] department finds
11 that the promoter is not the real party in interest."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 "60-2A-15. SUBPOENA POWER.--The commission, on a vote of
15 the majority of the members ~~[thereof]~~, may issue subpoenas in
16 connection with any investigation or hearing, requiring the
17 attendance and testimony of any person or the production of
18 books and papers of any licensee or other person whom the
19 commission believes to have information, books or papers of
20 importance to the investigation or hearing."

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

23 "60-2A-19. WITHHOLDING OF PURSE.--

24 A. The commission or its ~~[executive secretary]~~
25 chair may order a promoter to withhold a part of a purse or

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1 other funds belonging or payable to a contestant, manager or
2 second if, in the judgment of the commission or [~~the executive~~
3 ~~secretary~~] chair, the contestant is not competing honestly or
4 to the best of the contestant's skill and ability or if the
5 manager or second has violated any of the provisions of the
6 Professional Athletic Competition Act or a rule promulgated
7 [~~under~~] pursuant to that act.

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

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

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

21 "60-2A-20. ATTENDANCE AT WEIGH-INS--MEDICAL
22 EXAMINATIONS--PROFESSIONAL CONTESTS.--

23 A. [~~The executive secretary or~~] A member of the
24 commission shall be present at all weigh-ins [~~medical~~
25 ~~examinations~~] and professional contests and shall see that the

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1 provisions of the Professional Athletic Competition Act and the
2 rules made pursuant ~~[thereto]~~ to that act are strictly
3 enforced.

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

7 C. The commissioners present at a fight shall have
8 no authority during the event and shall not enter the technical
9 zone."

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

12 "60-2A-21. LENGTH OF PROFESSIONAL CONTESTS--ROUNDS.--No
13 professional boxing contest shall be more than ~~[fifteen]~~ twelve
14 rounds in length, and each round shall not exceed three minutes
15 in length. There shall be a one-minute rest between rounds.
16 The commission shall adopt rules governing the length of
17 professional kickboxing, professional martial arts,
18 professional mixed martial arts and sports entertainment
19 wrestling contests, the duration of rounds and the period of
20 rest between rounds."

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

23 "60-2A-24. ATHLETIC COMMISSION FUND.--The proceeds of
24 ~~[the regulatory fee on promotions and of the supervisory fee on~~
25 ~~closed-circuit television or motion pictures, together with~~

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1 any] license fees or other fees authorized pursuant to the
2 Professional Athletic Competition Act shall be deposited with
3 the state treasurer to the credit of the "athletic commission
4 fund", which is hereby created. Money in the fund is subject
5 to appropriation by the legislature. Expenditures from the
6 athletic commission fund shall only be made on vouchers issued
7 and signed by the person designated by the commission upon
8 warrants drawn by the department of finance and administration
9 in accordance with the budget approved by the department of
10 finance and administration."

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

13 "60-2A-29. PENALTY.--~~[Any]~~ A person ~~[violating]~~ who
14 violates the provisions of the Professional Athletic
15 Competition Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction
16 ~~[therefor]~~ shall be punished, in the discretion of the court,
17 by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by
18 imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed three months or
19 by both such fine and imprisonment."

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

22 "60-2A-31. BOXING HEADGEAR REQUIRED WHEN UNDER FIFTEEN
23 YEARS OF AGE ~~[PENALTY]~~.--~~[A.]~~ It is unlawful for any person to
24 permit, promote or sponsor any person under the age of fifteen
25 years to train as a boxer, engage in boxing matches or compete

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1 in school boxing exhibitions or events without wearing
2 protective headgear.

3 ~~[B. Any person violating the provisions of~~
4 ~~Subsection A of this section is guilty of a petty~~
5 ~~misdemeanor.]"~~

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

8 "60-2A-32. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR REQUIRED IN ALL AMATEUR
9 BOXING.--

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

15 B. [~~Any~~] A person [~~violating~~] who violates the
16 provisions of Subsection A of this section is guilty of a
17 misdemeanor."

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

20 "60-2A-34. UNLICENSED ACTIVITY--DISCIPLINARY
21 PROCEEDINGS--CIVIL PENALTY.--A person who is not licensed to
22 engage in a professional athletic competition activity
23 regulated by the [~~board~~] commission is subject to disciplinary
24 proceedings by the [~~board~~] commission as provided in the
25 Uniform Licensing Act. The provisions of Section 61-1-3.2 NMSA
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1 1978 notwithstanding, the [~~board~~] commission may impose a civil
2 penalty in an amount not to exceed two thousand dollars
3 (\$2,000) against a person who engages in a professional
4 athletic competition activity regulated by the [~~board~~]
5 commission without a license. In addition, the [~~board~~]
6 commission may assess the person for administrative costs,
7 including investigative costs and the cost of conducting a
8 hearing."

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

11 "60-2A-36. PROFESSIONAL BOXING STATE CHAMPIONS AND
12 RANKED CONTENDERS.--

13 A. The commission shall declare a state champion
14 professional boxer in each weight class.

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

18 C. The professional boxing state champion shall
19 defend the championship title within six months of winning the
20 title and every six months thereafter against a challenger in
21 the champion's own weight class. If the champion does not
22 defend the title or cannot defend the title for physical
23 reasons that are permanent, the commission shall forfeit the
24 championship and declare the title vacant. In the case of a
25 champion not defending a title within six months due to illness

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1 or injury that is not permanent, the champion shall submit to
2 the commission a physician's report describing the illness or
3 injury and an estimated time when the champion will be able to
4 defend the championship title. It ~~will~~ shall be at the
5 discretion of the commission, after considering the physician's
6 report, whether a stay of the six-month title defense
7 requirement ~~will~~ shall be permitted."

8 SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred thousand dollars
9 (\$200,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
10 regulation and licensing department for expenditure in fiscal
11 year 2026 to fund two full-time employees to administer the
12 Professional Athletic Competition Act. Any unexpended or
13 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2026
14 shall revert to the general fund.

15 SECTION 22. REPEAL.--Sections 60-2A-7, 60-2A-23 and
16 60-2A-25 through 60-2A-28 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980, Chapter
17 90, Sections 7, 23 and 25 through 28, as amended) are repealed.