

No. 1983-62

AN ACT

SB 632

Amending the act of August 31, 1955 (P.L.531, No.131), entitled "An act permitting and regulating wrestling and boxing contests and exhibitions; requiring licenses and permits; conferring powers and imposing duties upon the State Athletic Commission; providing for the granting, suspension, and revocation of licenses and permits issued by the Commission; preserving the rights of existing licensees and permittees; prescribing penalties, fines, forfeitures and misdemeanors; requiring bonds and insurance; creating a Medical Advisory Board; providing for rules and regulations; and making appropriations," regulating kick boxing; further regulating amateur boxing; establishing a State boxing register; providing for medical training seminars; requiring certain emergency medical equipment to be at situs of certain events; further providing for suspension; further defining referee's role in boxing contest; prohibiting tough guy contests or battle of the brawlers contests; and providing a penalty.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 102 of the act of August 31, 1955 (P.L.531, No.131), known as the Pennsylvania Athletic Code, is amended by adding definitions to read:

Section 102. Definitions; Construction.—The following terms shall be construed when used in this act to have the following meanings, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * *

"Boxing" shall mean the act of attack and defense with the fists, practiced as a sport, subject to rules adopted by the Commission. The term "boxing" shall include all variations of the sport permitting or using other parts of the human body, including, but not limited to, the foot, knee, leg, elbow or head.

* * *

"Wrestling" shall mean a sport or contest or exhibition in which two unarmed individuals struggle hand to hand, with each individual attempting to subdue or unbalance the opponent. The term "wrestling" shall include all variations of the sport permitting or using other parts of the human body or other natural or manmade substances or objects.

Section 2. Section 201 of the act, amended May 24, 1956 (1955 P.L.1693, No.574), is amended to read:

Section 201. Power of Commission to Control Wrestling and Boxing.—***[The] Except as provided in section 103, the Commission is hereby granted sole direction, control and jurisdiction over all amateur and professional boxing and wrestling contests and exhibitions or any variations thereof held within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, except such contests and exhibitions as are specifically exempted from the provisions of this act.***

Section 3. Section 202 of the act, amended June 18, 1976 (P.L.393, No.85), is amended to read:

Section 202. **Boxing and Wrestling Regulated.**—Amateur or professional boxing or wrestling contests or exhibitions, *including kick boxing*, shall be held within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania only in accordance with the provisions of this act and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder. Such contests or exhibitions may be held on Sundays.

Section 4. Section 204 of the act, amended May 24, 1956 (1955 P.L.1693, No.574), is amended to read:

Section 204. **Physician to be in Attendance.**—A physician shall be assigned to every boxing or wrestling contest or exhibition by the Commission. He shall observe and continue to observe the physical condition of the participants and **[advise the member of the Commission or deputy in charge and the referee in regard thereto.]** *be authorized to stop any contest or exhibition at any time to examine a contestant and to terminate a bout when in his judgment severe injury could result to a contestant if the contest or exhibition were to continue.* The Commission shall establish by rule or regulation a schedule of fees to be paid such physicians for their services. The physician's fee shall be paid by the promoter of the contest or exhibition attended by the physician.

Section 5. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

Section 204.1. Medical Training Seminars.—*The Commission shall conduct frequent mandatory medical training seminars at least three (3) per year for all ring personnel, Commission personnel and for other persons employed by the Commission and designated to attend.*

Section 204.2. Register.—*The Commission shall establish and maintain a register for all professional boxers licensed in Pennsylvania. The register shall include a photograph of the boxer. In the register, the Commission shall record the results of each boxing contest or exhibition the boxer is involved in, including technical knockouts, knockouts and other boxing related injuries, as well as the dates of each contest or exhibition and the record of wins and losses.*

Section 204.3. Medical Equipment.—*No professional or amateur boxing event shall be started unless there is on the premises:*

- (1) an ambulance, together with emergency equipment; and*
- (2) a portable resuscitator with oxygen and appropriate endotracheal tubes and a qualified operator.*

Section 204.4. Suspension.—*For sound medical reasons and to protect the individual boxers, the Commission shall establish mandatory license suspensions of those persons who sustain certain injuries. The Commission may suspend a boxer's license for up to sixty (60) days for a laceration of the face, up to thirty (30) days for a technical knockout with minor injuries and up to forty-five (45) days for head injuries. Boxers receiving a knockout may receive up to a ninety (90) day suspension and shall receive an EEG within twenty-four (24) hours of the knockout.*

Section 6. Sections 208 and 210 of the act, amended May 24, 1956 (1955 P.L.1693, No.574), are amended to read:

Section 208. Gloves.—When the boxers are [**lightweights, as defined in the regulations, or in a lighter class,**] *one hundred thirty-five (135) pounds or under*, they shall wear boxing gloves weighing not less than five (5) ounces each. *When the boxers are over one hundred thirty-five (135) pounds but do not exceed one hundred sixty (160) pounds, they shall wear boxing gloves weighing not less than six (6) ounces each.* When the boxers are [**in a heavier class than lightweights,**] *over one hundred sixty (160) pounds*, they shall wear boxing gloves weighing not less than [**six (6)**] *ten (10)* ounces each.

Section 210. Attendance of Referee and Judges; Scoring.—At each professional boxing contest or exhibition, except an exhibition held solely for training purposes, there shall be in attendance, at the expense of the promoter, a duly licensed referee designated by the Commission who shall direct and control the contest or exhibition.

There shall also be in attendance at every boxing contest, at the expense of the promoter, [**two (2)**] *three (3)* licensed judges, each of whom shall, **together with the referee,** render his individual decision, in writing, on a scorecard supplied by the Commission at the end of every boxing contest which continues for the scheduled number of rounds. Each judge [**and the referee**] shall have one (1) vote and a majority of the votes cast shall determine the winner.

The Commission shall by rule or regulation prescribe the methods of scoring.

Section 7. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 223. Prohibited Competition.—(a) *A person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he promotes, sponsors or participates in any manner in the staging of, or the conduct of, any tough guy contest or battle of the brawlers or in any similar competition.*

(b) *The provisions of this section shall not apply to the news media, including, but not limited to, television, radio, newspapers and periodicals, for their reporting activities relating to tough guy contests or battle of the brawlers.*

(c) *As used in this section the phrase “tough guy contest” or “battle of the brawlers” means any competition which involves any physical contact bout between two or more individuals, who attempt to knock out their opponent by employing boxing, wrestling, martial arts tactics or any combination thereof and by using techniques including, but not limited to, punches, kicks and choking. These phrases shall not apply to amateur or professional contests sanctioned by the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission nor to contests staged in connection with athletic training programs nor to amateur or professional contests of the martial arts nor to any collegiate or scholastic boxing, wrestling or martial arts contests.*

Section 8. Section 250 of the act, added May 24, 1956 (1955 P.L.1693, No.574), is amended to read:

Section 250. Mandatory Eight Count.—Whenever a boxer is knocked down, he shall be required to take a count of eight, even if he has regained his feet prior thereto, and the referee shall not permit the contest or exhibition to be resumed until the count of eight has actually been reached, except

in professional championship boxing contests and exhibitions. *A referee may give a standing eight count in those instances where he deems necessary.*

Section 9. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 3rd day of November, A. D. 1983.

DICK THORNBURGH