

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 538

BY REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 4:61(A), 65(A)(2) and (B), 67(C)(1), 72, 79(C), 81.1(A), 83(B)(2) and (C)(1), and 85(3) and R.S. 36:4.1(C)(11) and to enact R.S. 4:67(C)(4), relative to the State Boxing and Wrestling Commission; to change the name of the commission; to provide with respect to a safety zone for events; to provide for the assessment of fees; to provide that the board shall not receive any state funds; to repeal provisions regarding salaries for board members; to repeal the statutorily defined amounts of certain licensing fees; to authorize the board to fix salaries and licensing fees; to provide with respect to an events coordinator; to provide with respect to the venue capacity for certain professional wrestling events; to provide for professional wrestling event fees; to provide for an exception for professional wrestling bonds; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 4:61(A), 65(A)(2) and (B), 67(C)(1), 72, 79(C), 81.1(A), 83(B)(2) and (C)(1), and 85(3) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 4:67(C)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§61. ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State Athletic Commission; domicile; authority

A. There is hereby created a ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State Athletic Commission within the office of the governor. It shall consist of seven members, all of whom shall be appointed by the governor to serve at the pleasure of the governor making the appointment. Five members appointed by the governor

shall be appointed, one from each Public Service Commission district and two from the state at large. Each appointment by the governor shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation. The governor shall designate one member as chairman, one member as secretary, and one member as vice chairman. The secretary shall execute a bond of five thousand dollars, in favor of the state treasurer, for the faithful performance of the duties of his office. The premium of this bond shall be paid out of the commission funds.

* * *

§65. Licenses; fees; bond

A.

* * *

(2) Before any such license is granted, the applicant shall execute and file with the ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State Athletic Commission a bond of five thousand dollars in favor of the Louisiana State ~~Boxing and Wrestling~~ Athletic Commission as a security of good faith and ability to abide by the terms and provisions of this Chapter, for which the commission secretary shall issue to the applicant a certificate of its filing and approval. In lieu thereof, a certified check will be acceptable, which amount shall be kept on deposit by the secretary for the duration of the license period. This bond may be increased by the commission before approving the holding, conducting, or giving of any boxing, mixed technique event, or wrestling exhibition or contest, based upon the seating capacity of the hall or facility where said contest or exhibition is to be conducted. The following schedule shall govern the amount of the additional bond that may be required to be posted with the commission for the holding, conducting, or giving of a boxing, mixed technique event, or wrestling contest or exhibition:

* * *

B. The commission may charge the following fees for licenses:

- (1) Wrestling and mixed technique event promoters..... \$ ~~250.00~~ 500.00
- (2) Boxing promoters..... \$ ~~500.00~~ 250.00
- (3) Matchmakers..... \$ ~~250.00~~ 150.00

§67. Gross receipts tax; disbursements

(4) Each member of the commission shall receive a per diem, in an amount set by the commission, not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars per day, for attendance at commission meetings or other official commission-approved business or activities, not to exceed ten days in any one month. Each member shall be

1 reimbursed actual expenses reasonably necessary for attending commission or
2 committee meetings or for representing the commission or participating in an official
3 commission-approved activity.

4 * * *

5 §72. ~~Proximity of seats to ring; seating for the commission~~ Safety Zone

6 ~~There shall be no seats, except those provided for the press and timers,~~
7 ~~physicians, and commissioners, within four feet of the sides of the ring, or within six~~
8 ~~feet of the corners of the ring, except those approved by the commission. The club~~
9 ~~shall, without charge, provide seating for the commission as is necessary for the~~
10 ~~attendance of the commission and those persons necessary to work the event.~~

11 A. At each event, there shall be an area around the ring or cage extending no
12 less than eight feet as measured from the ring, cage, or from the catwalk which shall
13 be partitioned at that distance of eight feet using ropes, fencing, police barriers,
14 bicycle barriers, or other emplacements from the public seating and that area shall
15 be referred to as the "safety zone".

16 B. All of the following shall apply to the safety zone:

17 (1) No one may enter the safety zone unless authorized by the commission.

18 (2) All seating inside of the safety zone shall be authorized only by the
19 commission in attendance.

20 (3) Anyone entering the safety zone without the authority of the commission
21 may be ejected from the event.

22 * * *

23 §79. Referees and judges; appointment of event coordinator

24 * * *

25 C. In addition, the commission may appoint an events coordinator, ~~not on the~~
26 ~~commission~~, for any boxing event the commission deems necessary, whose fee shall
27 be paid by the club promoting the event in question, ~~which amount shall not exceed~~
28 ~~three hundred fifty dollars per event~~ in an amount fixed by the commission.

29 * * *

§81.1. Tough-man contest; prohibition

A. For the purposes of this Chapter, "tough-man contest" shall mean any boxing match, wrestling event, or competition, or combination thereof, between two or more persons, whether professional or amateur, who use their hands, with or without gloves, or their feet, or both, in any manner unauthorized by the ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State Athletic Commission, and compete for money, financial prize, or any item of pecuniary or nonpecuniary value or compete at an event where a fee is charged whereby either participant may obtain pecuniary gain. The term "tough-man contest" shall not include, nor shall the provisions of this Section apply to any contest, competition, or exhibition of any of the recognized martial arts including karate, judo, kung fu, tae kwan do, jujitsu, kickboxing, or any substantially similar tradition.

* * *

§83. Application of Chapter; professional wrestling events; required notice; exemptions

* * *

B. The provisions of R.S. 4:65(A)(2), 67(A) and (B), 68 through 70, 72, 73, and 79(C) shall not apply to any professional wrestling event provided all of the following conditions are met:

* * *

(2) The venue for the event is either a primary or secondary school gymnasium or has a capacity of ~~four hundred~~ one thousand persons or fewer as certified by the state fire marshal.

* * *

C. The following shall apply to any professional wrestling event conducted pursuant to Subsection B of this Section:

(1) The promoter shall not be required by the commission to pay any show date reservation fee however, the commission shall charge a fee of two hundred fifty dollars for the approval and review of the ~~nor shall any fee be charged for submission of the~~ written notice required by Paragraph (B)(6) of this Section.

* * *

1 §85. Definitions; construction

2 As used in this Chapter:

3 * * *

4 (3) "Commission" means the ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State
5 Athletic Commission.

6 * * *

7 Section 2. R.S. 36:4.1(C)(11) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §4.1. Agencies transferred from Louisiana Economic Development to the office of
9 the governor; agencies placed within the office of the governor

10 * * *

11 C. The following agencies are hereby transferred to and shall be placed
12 within the office of the governor and shall perform and exercise their powers, duties,
13 functions, and responsibilities as provided in R.S. 36:803:

14 * * *

15 (11) ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State Athletic Commission (R.S.
16 4:61 et seq.).

17 * * *

18 Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and requested to
19 change all references in the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 to the State Boxing and
20 Wrestling Commission, whether referred to as "State Boxing and Wrestling Commission"
21 or commission, to "Louisiana State Athletic Commission" where appropriate.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____