
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1729 Session of
1987

INTRODUCED BY LINTON, MILLER, OLIVER, BUNT AND SCHULER,
SEPTEMBER 29, 1987

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 29, 1987

AN ACT

1 Providing for the regulation of professional wrestlers and
2 promoters; imposing a tax on certain receipts; requiring the
3 posting of performance bonds; and providing penalties.

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

1 Section 1. Short title.

2 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Professional
3 Wrestling Act.

4 Section 2. Definitions.

5 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
6 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
7 context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "Department." The Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth.

9 "Promoter." Any person, and in the case of a corporation, an
10 officer, director, employee or shareholder thereof, who
11 produces, arranges or stages any professional wrestling
12 exhibition.

13 "Wrestling exhibition." An engagement in which the
14 participants display their skills in a struggle against each
15 other in the ring, with or without the use of substances and
16 objects, without necessarily striving to win.

17 Section 3. Promoter's bonding requirements.

18 (a) General rule.--Before the scheduled date of any
19 professional wrestling exhibition, the promoter of the
20 exhibition shall be required to execute a surety bond with the
21 entity operating the arena or other facility in a reasonable
22 amount, but not less than \$10,000, as the parties shall agree.

23 (b) Conditions of bond.--The surety bond shall be
24 conditioned upon the faithful performance by the promoter of his
25 obligations under this act and the contract with the entity in
26 charge of the arena or other facility.

27 Section 4. Admissions gross receipts tax.

28 (a) Imposition of tax.--In addition to any Federal tax or
29 tax imposed by any political subdivision of the Commonwealth to
30 be paid on gross receipts, every promoter shall pay a State tax

1 of 2% of the total gross receipts of any wrestling exhibition.

2 (b) Payment of tax.--The tax payment shall be made to the
3 department within 72 hours after the exhibition. The payment
4 shall be accompanied by a form prescribed by the department
5 setting forth the gross receipts received from the exhibition,
6 together with such other information the department may require.
7 One percent of the moneys received by the Commonwealth for
8 payment of the gross receipts tax enumerated in this section are
9 hereby appropriated to the department to be placed in a
10 restricted receipts account.

11 (c) Definition.--As used in this section, the total gross
12 receipts of every promoter upon which the 2% tax is to be
13 charged or to be computed shall include only the face value of
14 all the tickets sold.

15 Section 5. Physician to be in attendance.

16 The promoter shall be responsible to employ a physician from
17 a list approved by the Department of Health to be present at
18 every wrestling exhibition. The physician shall observe the
19 physical condition of the participants throughout the exhibition
20 and shall be authorized to terminate an exhibition when, in his
21 judgment, severe injury would result if the exhibition were to
22 continue. The physician's fee shall be paid by the promoter of
23 the exhibition.

24 Section 6. Ambulance available.

25 The promoter shall be responsible to have an ambulance or
26 paramedical unit present at the arena in case a serious injury
27 were to occur. Where the ambulance or paramedical unit is
28 located within five miles of the arena and that unit has been
29 notified to be on call by the promoter, the unit need not be
30 present at the arena.

1 Section 7. Crowd control.

2 The promoter shall be responsible for ensuring that adequate
3 security personnel are in attendance at the wrestling exhibition
4 to control fans in attendance. The size of the security force is
5 at the discretion of the promoter and the owner or operator of
6 the arena, as they shall agree.

7 Section 8. Offenses.

8 (a) Arena owners or operators.--It shall be unlawful for an
9 owner or operator of an arena, hall or other facility at which a
10 professional wrestling exhibition takes place to destroy any
11 ticket or ticket stub, whether sold or unsold, within three
12 months after the date of any exhibition.

13 (b) Wrestlers.--It shall be unlawful for any wrestler to
14 deliberately cut or otherwise mutilate himself while
15 participating in a wrestling exhibition.

16 Section 9. Enforcement.

17 The police chief of any municipal police department, the
18 troop commander of any Pennsylvania State Police troop or the
19 Attorney General or his designee may assign an on-duty police
20 officer, detective or investigator under his jurisdiction to be
21 present at any professional wrestling exhibition within his
22 respective jurisdiction. The police officer, detective or
23 investigator, upon display of a written order of assignment,
24 shall be admitted by the promoter without fee or hindrance and
25 shall monitor compliance with this act.

26 Section 10. Penalties.

27 Except for a violation of section 9, a violation of any
28 provision of this act shall be a summary offense. A violation of
29 section 9 shall be a misdemeanor of the third degree.

30 Section 11. Repeals.

1 The act of August 31, 1955 (P.L.531, No.131), known as the
2 Pennsylvania Athletic Code, is repealed insofar as it applies to
3 professional wrestling exhibitions.

4 Section 12. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect immediately.