

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1187 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY GERGELY, BARBIN, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA,  
DeLUCA, GEORGE, HARHAI, HARKINS, KORTZ, KULA, MAHONEY,  
MURPHY, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYTON, PRESTON,  
READSHAW, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, WALKO, WANSACZ, WHITE AND  
GIBBONS, APRIL 3, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 3, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 5 (Athletics and Sports) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for duties of State  
3 Athletic Commission; in regulation of boxing contests and  
4 exhibitions, further providing for age of participants and  
5 for gloves; in wrestling, further providing for definitions  
6 and for physician to be in attendance; and, in registration  
7 of athlete agents, further providing for bonding  
8 requirements.

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

11 Section 1. Section 103(b) of Title 5 of the Pennsylvania  
12 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

13 § 103. Duties of commission.

14 \* \* \*

15 (b) General duties.--In addition to any other power  
16 specifically granted by this part, the commission:

17 \* \* \*

18 (4) May enter into agreements with other states,  
19 territories or possessions of the United States or tribal

1 organizations to permit the commission to supervise boxing  
2 matches in the other states, territories or possessions or on  
3 tribal reservations, in accordance with the Professional  
4 Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-272, 15 U.S.C. §  
5 6301 et seq.)

6 Section 2. Sections 702 and 712 of Title 5 are amended to  
7 read:

8 § 702. Age of participants.

9 (a) [General rule] Professional contests and exhibitions--  
10 No person under 18 years of age shall be a participant in any  
11 professional contest or exhibition.

12 [(b) Exception.--

13 (1) Any person between 12 and 17 years of age may  
14 participate in amateur contests or exhibitions under such  
15 rules and regulations as the commission shall prescribe.

16 (2) Any person between 12 and 17 years of age may  
17 participate after obtaining written permission from a parent  
18 or legal guardian, as well as consent by the executive  
19 director.

20 (3) A person 12 to 16 years of age may only participate  
21 in such contests with a person not more than one year older.

22 (c) Junior Olympics.--The limitations set forth in  
23 subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to sanctioned boxing  
24 events for the Junior Olympics under the direction of a national  
25 governing organization certified by the commission. For the  
26 purposes of the Junior Olympic events, participants, with the  
27 written permission of a parent or legal guardian, may box only  
28 in the following age divisions:

29 (1) Ten and eleven years of age.

30 (2) Twelve and thirteen years of age.

1           (3) Fourteen and fifteen years of age.

2 No participant shall take part in any event outside of the  
3 approved division for that age group.]

4       (d) Amateur contests and exhibitions.--Any age restriction  
5 or requirement for amateur boxer participation in any amateur  
6 contest or exhibition shall conform with local amateur  
7 association rules as approved by the commission.

8 § 712. Gloves.

9       (a) General rule.--All boxers licensed under this subpart  
10 shall be required to use thumbless or thumb-attached gloves. The  
11 appropriate weight boxing gloves shall be [worn by boxers as  
12 follows:

13           (1) One hundred sixty pounds or under, boxing gloves  
14 weighing not less than eight ounces each.

15           (2) Over 160 pounds, boxing gloves weighing not less  
16 than ten ounces each.] set by regulation of the commission.

17       (b) Violation.--A violation of this section or of the  
18 commission's regulations may subject the participant, promoter  
19 or manager or any of them to suspension of not less than 30 days  
20 or revocation of their licenses, at the discretion of the  
21 commission, pursuant to section 1304 (relating to suspension or  
22 revocation of licenses or permits).

23       Section 3. The definition of "promoter" in section 1902 of  
24 Title 5 is amended to read:

25 § 1902. Definitions.

26       Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent  
27 provisions of this subpart which are applicable to specific  
28 provisions of this subpart, the following words and phrases when  
29 used in this subpart shall have the meanings given to them in  
30 this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Promoter." Any person and, in the case of a corporation, an  
2 officer, director, employee or shareholder thereof who produces,  
3 arranges or stages any professional wrestling contest or  
4 exhibition.

5 \* \* \*

6 Section 4. Section 2104 of Title 5 is amended to read:

7 § 2104. Physician or ambulance with emergency medical personnel  
8 to be in attendance.

9 Before any professional wrestling contest or exhibition shall  
10 take place, the promoter and the operator of the arena or  
11 facility shall employ a physician or ambulance with emergency  
12 medical personnel to be present at every wrestling contest or  
13 exhibition. The physician or emergency medical personnel shall  
14 observe the physical condition of the participants throughout  
15 the contest or exhibition and shall be authorized to terminate  
16 the contest or exhibition when, in his judgment, severe injury  
17 would result if the contest or exhibition were to continue. The  
18 [physician's] fee for the physician or ambulance and emergency  
19 medical personnel shall be paid by the promoter.

20 Section 5. Section 3316(a) of Title 5 is amended and the  
21 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

22 § 3316. Bonding requirements.

23 (a) Amount.--[Before] Except as required by subsection (f),  
24 before any athlete agent registration is issued, the applicant  
25 shall be required to execute and file a surety bond with the  
26 commission in such reasonable amount, but not less than \$20,000,  
27 as the commission shall require.

28 \* \* \*

29 (f) Athlete agents.--

30 (1) An athlete agent who:

1           (i) represents professional athletes only;  
2           (ii) holds a current registration with a  
3           professional sports organization or association;  
4           (iii) does not enter into agency contracts with  
5           student athletes; and  
6           (iv) does not directly or indirectly recruit or  
7           solicit student athletes to enter into an agency  
8           contract;

9           is not required to execute and file a surety bond or  
10           alternate security under this section.

11           (2) An applicant under this subsection shall execute and  
12           file an affidavit with the commission verifying that the  
13           applicant does not act as an athlete agent with regard to  
14           student athletes as defined in section 3102 (relating to  
15           definitions).

16           Section 6. This act shall take effect in 60 days.