

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4167

To provide for the safety of journeymen boxers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

Mr. WILLIAMS (for himself, Mr. OXLEY, and Mr. MANTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities and in addition to the Committee on Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the safety of journeymen boxers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Professional Boxing
5 Safety Act of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For purposes of this Act:

8 (1) **BOXER.**—The term “boxer” means an indi-
9 vidual who fights in a professional boxing match.

1 (2) BOXING COMMISSION.—(A) The term “box-
2 ing commission” means an entity authorized under
3 State law to regulate professional boxing matches.

4 (3) BOXER REGISTRY.—The term “boxer reg-
5 istry” means any entity certified by the Association
6 of Boxing Commissions for the purposes of main-
7 taining records and identification of boxers.

8 (4) LICENSEE.—The term “licensee” means an
9 individual who serves as a trainer, second, or cut
10 man for a boxer.

11 (5) MANAGER.—The term “manager” means a
12 person who receives compensation for service as an
13 agent or representative of a boxer.

14 (6) MATCHMAKER.—The term “matchmaker”
15 means a person that proposes, selects, and arranges
16 the boxers to participate in a professional boxing
17 match.

18 (7) PHYSICIAN.—The term “physician” means
19 a doctor of medicine legally authorized to practice
20 medicine by the State in which the physician per-
21 forms such function or action.

22 (8) PROFESSIONAL BOXING MATCH.—The term
23 “professional boxing match” means a boxing contest
24 held in the United States between individuals for fi-
25 nancial compensation. Such term does not include a

1 boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur
2 sports organization.

3 (9) PROMOTER.—The term “promoter” means
4 the person primarily responsible for organizing, pro-
5 moting, and producing a professional boxing match.

6 (10) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
7 the 50 States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia,
8 and any territory or possession of the United States.

9 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

10 The purposes of this Act are—

11 (1) to improve and expand the system of safety
12 precautions that protects the welfare of professional
13 boxers; and

14 (2) to assist State boxing commissions to pro-
15 vide proper oversight for the professional boxing in-
16 dustry in the United States.

17 **SEC. 4. BOXING MATCHES IN STATES WITHOUT BOXING**
18 **COMMISSIONS.**

19 No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce,
20 or fight in a professional boxing match held in a State
21 that does not have a boxing commission unless the match
22 is supervised by a boxing commission from another State
23 and subject to the most recent version of the recommended
24 regulatory guidelines certified and published by the Asso-
25 ciation of Boxing Commissions as well as any additional

1 relevant professional boxing regulations and requirements
2 of such other State.

3 **SEC. 5. SAFETY STANDARDS.**

4 No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce,
5 or fight in a professional boxing match without meeting
6 each of the following requirements or an alternative re-
7 quirement in effect under regulations of a boxing commis-
8 sion that provides equivalent protection of the health and
9 safety of boxers:

10 (1) A physical examination of each boxer by a
11 physician certifying whether or not the boxer is
12 physically fit to safely compete, copies of which must
13 be provided to the boxing commission.

14 (2) Except as otherwise expressly provided
15 under regulation of a boxing commission promul-
16 gated subsequent to the enactment of this Act, an
17 ambulance or medical personnel with appropriate re-
18 suscitation equipment continuously present on site.

19 (3) A physician continuously present at ring-
20 side.

21 (4) Health insurance for each boxer to provide
22 medical coverage for any injuries sustained in the
23 match.

1 **SEC. 6. REGISTRATION.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Each boxer shall register
3 with—

4 (1) the boxing commission of the State in which
5 such boxer resides; or

6 (2) in the case of a boxer who is a resident of
7 a foreign country, or a State in which there is no
8 boxing commission, the boxing commission of any
9 State that has such a commission.

10 (b) IDENTIFICATION CARD.—

11 (1) ISSUANCE.—A boxing commission shall
12 issue to each professional boxer who registers in ac-
13 cordance with subsection (a), an identification card
14 that contains each of the following:

15 (A) A recent photograph of the boxer.

16 (B) The social security number of the
17 boxer (or, in the case of a foreign boxer, any
18 similar citizen identification number or profes-
19 sional boxer number from the country of resi-
20 dence of the boxer).

21 (C) A personal identification number as-
22 signed to the boxer by a boxing registry.

23 (2) RENEWAL.—Each professional boxer shall
24 renew his or her identification card at least once
25 every 2 years.

1 (3) PRESENTATION.—Each professional boxer
2 shall present his or her identification card to the ap-
3 propriate boxing commission not later than the time
4 of the weigh-in for a professional boxing match.

5 **SEC. 7. REVIEW.**

6 (a) PROCEDURES.—Each boxing commission shall es-
7 tablish each of the following procedures:

8 (1) Procedures to evaluate the professional
9 records and physician’s certification of each boxer
10 participating in a professional boxing match in the
11 State, and to deny authorization for a boxer to fight
12 where appropriate.

13 (2) Procedures to ensure that, except as pro-
14 vided in subsection (b), no boxer is permitted to box
15 while under suspension from any boxing commission
16 due to—

17 (A) a recent knockout or series of consecu-
18 tive losses;

19 (B) an injury, requirement for a medical
20 procedure, or physician denial of certification;

21 (C) failure of a drug test; or

22 (D) the use of false aliases, or falsifying,
23 or attempting to falsify, official identification
24 cards or documents.

1 (3) Procedures to review a suspension where
2 appealed by a boxer, including an opportunity for a
3 boxer to present contradictory evidence.

4 (4) Procedures to revoke a suspension where a
5 boxer—

6 (A) was suspended under subparagraph
7 (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) of this subsection,
8 and has furnished further proof of a sufficiently
9 improved medical or physical condition; or

10 (B) furnishes proof under subparagraph
11 (C) or (D) of paragraph (2) that a suspension
12 was not, or is no longer, merited by the facts.

13 (b) SUSPENSION IN ANOTHER STATE.—A boxing
14 commission may allow a boxer who is under suspension
15 in any State to participate in a professional boxing
16 match—

17 (1) for any reason other than those listed in
18 subsection (a) if such commission notifies in writing
19 and consults with the designated official of the sus-
20 pending State’s boxing commission prior to the
21 grant of approval for such individual to participate
22 in that professional boxing match; or

23 (2) if the boxer appeals to the Association of
24 Boxing Commissions, and the Association of Boxing
25 Commissions determines that the suspension of such

1 boxer was without sufficient grounds, for an im-
2 proper purpose, or not related to the health and
3 safety of the boxer or the purposes of this Act.

4 **SEC. 8. REPORTING.**

5 Not later than 48 business hours after the conclusion
6 of a professional boxing match, the supervising boxing
7 commission shall report the results of such boxing match
8 and any related suspensions to each boxer registry.

9 **SEC. 9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**

10 No member or employee of a boxing commission, no
11 person who administers or enforces State boxing laws, and
12 no member of the Association of Boxing Commissions may
13 belong to, contract with, or receive any compensation
14 from, any person who sanctions, arranges, or promotes
15 professional boxing matches or who otherwise has a finan-
16 cial interest in an active boxer currently registered with
17 a boxer registry. For purposes of this section, the term
18 “compensation” does not include funds held in escrow for
19 payment to another person in connection with a profes-
20 sional boxing match. The prohibition set forth in this sec-
21 tion shall not apply to any contract entered into, or any
22 reasonable compensation received, by a boxing commission
23 to supervise a professional boxing match in another State
24 as described in section 4.

1 **SEC. 10. ENFORCEMENT.**

2 (a) INJUNCTIONS.—Whenever the Attorney General
3 of the United States has reasonable cause to believe that
4 a person is engaged in a violation of this Act, the Attorney
5 General may bring a civil action in the appropriate district
6 court of the United States requesting such relief, including
7 a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order,
8 or other order, against the person, as the Attorney Gen-
9 eral determines to be necessary to restrain the person
10 from continuing to engage in, sanction, promote, or other-
11 wise participate in a professional boxing match in violation
12 of this Act.

13 (b) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—

14 (1) MANAGERS, PROMOTERS, MATCHMAKERS,
15 AND LICENSEES.—Any manager, promoter, match-
16 maker, and licensee who knowingly violates, or co-
17 erces or causes any other person to violate, any pro-
18 vision of this Act shall, upon conviction, be impris-
19 oned for not more than 1 year or fined not more
20 than \$20,000, or both.

21 (2) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Any member or
22 employee of a boxing commission, any person who
23 administers or enforces State boxing laws, and any
24 member of the Association of Boxing Commissions
25 who knowingly violates section 9 of this Act shall,

1 upon conviction, be imprisoned for not more than 1
2 year or fined not more than \$20,000, or both.

3 (3) BOXERS.—Any boxer who knowingly vio-
4 lates any provision of this Act shall, upon conviction,
5 be fined not more than \$1,000.

6 **SEC. 11. NOTIFICATION OF SUPERVISING BOXING COMMIS-**
7 **SION.**

8 Each promoter who intends to hold a professional
9 boxing match in a State that does not have a boxing com-
10 mission shall, not later than 14 days before the intended
11 date of that match, provide written notification to the su-
12 pervising boxing commission designated under section 4.
13 Such notification shall contain each of the following:

14 (1) Assurances that, with respect to that pro-
15 fessional boxing match, all applicable requirements
16 of this Act will be met.

17 (2) The name of any person who, at the time
18 of the submission of the notification—

19 (A) is under suspension from a boxing
20 commission; and

21 (B) will be involved in organizing or par-
22 ticipating in the event.

23 (3) For any individual listed under paragraph
24 (2), the identity of the boxing commission that is-
25 sued the suspension described in paragraph (2)(A).

1 **SEC. 12. STUDIES.**

2 (a) PENSION.—The Secretary of Labor shall conduct
3 a study on the feasibility and cost of a national pension
4 system for boxers, including potential funding sources.

5 (b) HEALTH, SAFETY, AND EQUIPMENT.—The Sec-
6 retary of Health and Human Services shall conduct a
7 study to develop recommendations for health, safety, and
8 equipment standards for boxers and for professional box-
9 ing matches.

10 (c) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date
11 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall sub-
12 mit a report to the Congress on the findings of the study
13 conducted pursuant to subsection (a). Not later than 180
14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
15 of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to
16 the Congress on the findings of the study conducted pur-
17 suant to subsection (b).

18 **SEC. 13. PROFESSIONAL BOXING MATCHES CONDUCTED ON**
19 **INDIAN RESERVATIONS.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the
21 following definitions shall apply:

22 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
23 has the same meaning as in section 4(e) of the In-
24 dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
25 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

1 (2) RESERVATION.—The term “reservation”
2 means the geographically defined area over which a
3 tribal organization exercises governmental jurisdic-
4 tion.

5 (3) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “tribal
6 organization” has the same meaning as in section
7 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education
8 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(l)).

9 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
11 provision of law, a tribal organization of an Indian
12 tribe may, upon the initiative of the tribal organiza-
13 tion—

14 (A) regulate professional boxing matches
15 held within the reservation under the jurisdic-
16 tion of that tribal organization; and

17 (B) carry out that regulation or enter into
18 a contract with a boxing commission to carry
19 out that regulation.

20 (2) STANDARDS AND LICENSING.—If a tribal
21 organization regulates professional boxing matches
22 pursuant to paragraph (1), the tribal organization
23 shall, by tribal ordinance or resolution, establish and
24 provide for the implementation of health and safety
25 standards, licensing requirements, and other require-

1 ments relating to the conduct of professional boxing
2 matches that are at least as restrictive as—

3 (A) the otherwise applicable standards and
4 requirements of a State in which the reserva-
5 tion is located; or

6 (B) the most recently published version of
7 the recommended regulatory guidelines certified
8 and published by the Association of Boxing
9 Commissions.

10 **SEC. 14. RELATIONSHIP WITH STATE LAW.**

11 Nothing in this Act shall prohibit a State from adopt-
12 ing or enforcing supplemental or more stringent laws or
13 regulations not inconsistent with this Act, or criminal,
14 civil, or administrative fines for violations of such laws or
15 regulations.

16 **SEC. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 The provisions of this Act shall take effect on Janu-
18 ary 1, 1997, except as follows:

19 (1) Section 9 shall not apply to an otherwise
20 authorized boxing commission in the Commonwealth
21 of Virginia until July 1, 1998.

22 (2) Sections 5 through 9 shall take effect on
23 July 1, 1997.

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