

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 44

To amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 to include fighters of combat sports in the safety provisions of such Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and 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 amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 to include fighters of combat sports in the safety provisions of such Act.

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 “Muhammad Ali Expan-
5 sion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS FIGHTERS.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Professional
3 Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 6301) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
6 (15) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11),
7 (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), and (17), respectively;

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(4) FIGHTER.—The term ‘fighter’ means an
11 individual who fights in a professional mixed martial
12 arts competition or other professional combat sport
13 competition.”;

14 (3) by inserting after paragraph (7), as so re-
15 designated, the following:

16 “(8) COMBAT SPORT COMPETITION.—The term
17 ‘combat sport competition’ means a professional
18 fight that allows fighters to use one or more forms
19 of martial arts, including mixed martial arts. Such
20 term does not include—

21 “(A) a combat sport that allows the use of
22 a weapon or foreign object; or

23 “(B) a competition that is regulated by an
24 amateur sports organization.”; and

25 (4) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(18) MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.—The term ‘mixed
2 martial arts’ means a full-contact combat sport that
3 allows fighters to use both striking and grappling
4 techniques, and both standing and on the ground,
5 from a variety of other combat sports and martial
6 arts.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

8 (1) Sections 3 through 21 (other than section
9 20) of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996
10 (15 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) are amended—

11 (A) by inserting “or fighter” after “boxer”
12 each place it appears;

13 (B) by inserting “and fighters” after “box-
14 ers” each place it appears;

15 (C) by inserting “or combat sport competi-
16 tion” after “boxing match” each place it ap-
17 pears;

18 (D) by inserting “and combat sport com-
19 petitions” after “boxing matches” each place it
20 appears;

21 (E) by inserting “or competition” after
22 “the match” each place it appears; and

23 (F) by striking “boxing service provider”
24 and inserting “boxing or combat sport service
25 provider”.

1 (2) Section 2 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 6301) is
2 further amended—

3 (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and
4 combat sport competitions” after “professional
5 boxing matches”;

6 (B) in paragraphs (3), (6), and (14), by
7 inserting “and fighters” after “boxers” each
8 place it appears;

9 (C) in paragraphs (4), (11), and (13), by
10 inserting “or fighter” after “boxer” each place
11 it appears;

12 (D) in paragraphs (6), (9), and (14), by
13 inserting “or combat sport competition” after
14 “professional boxing match” each place it ap-
15 pears;

16 (E) in paragraph (9), by inserting “or
17 competition” after “the match” each place it
18 appears;

19 (F) in paragraphs (12) and (13), by strik-
20 ing “boxing service provider” and inserting
21 “boxing or combat sport service provider”; and

22 (G) in paragraph (15) by inserting “or
23 combat sports” after “boxing”.

24 (3) Section 3(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C.
25 6302(2)) is further amended by inserting “and pro-

1 fessional combat sports industry” after “professional
2 boxing industry”.

3 (4) Section 4(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C.
4 6303(a)) is further amended by inserting “and com-
5 bat sport regulations” after “professional boxing
6 regulations”.

7 (5) Section 6(c) of such Act (15 U.S.C.
8 6305(c)) is further amended by inserting “and fight-
9 ing” after “risk associated with boxing”.

10 (6) Section 7(a)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C.
11 6306(a)(2)) is further amended by inserting “or
12 compete” after “box”.

13 (7) Section 9 of such Act is further amended—

14 (A) by striking “Within 2” and inserting
15 the following:

16 “(a) BOXING CONTRACTS.—Within 2”; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(b) COMBAT SPORTS CONTRACTS.—Not later than
19 2 years after the date of enactment of the Muhammad
20 Ali Expansion Act, the Association of Boxing Commissions
21 (ABC) shall develop and shall approve by a vote of no less
22 than a majority of its member State boxing commis-
23 sioners, guidelines for minimum contractual provisions
24 that should be included in bout agreements and mixed
25 martial arts and other combat sport contracts. It is the

1 sense of the Congress that State boxing commissions
2 should follow these ABC guidelines.”.

3 (8) Section 10(a) of such Act is further amend-
4 ed—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “or
6 fighter’s” after “boxer’s”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by striking “This subsection” and
9 inserting “With respect to boxing con-
10 tracts, this subsection”; and

11 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing: “With respect to mixed martial
13 arts and other combat sport contracts, this
14 subsection shall only apply to contracts en-
15 tered into after the date of the enactment
16 of the Muhammad Ali Expansion Act.”.

17 (9) Section 11 of such Act is further amend-
18 ed—

19 (A) in subsection (a)—

20 (i) by striking “Within 2” and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(1) BOXING CONTRACTS.—Within 2”; and

23 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(2) COMBAT SPORTS.—Not later than 2 years
2 after the date of the enactment of the Muhammad
3 Ali Expansion Act, the Association of Boxing Com-
4 missions shall develop and shall approve by a vote of
5 no less than a majority of its member State boxing
6 commissioners, guidelines for objective and con-
7 sistent written criteria for the ratings of mixed mar-
8 tial arts and other combat sports. It is the sense of
9 the Congress that sanctioning bodies and State box-
10 ing commissions should follow these ABC guide-
11 lines.”; and

12 (B) in subsection (d)(1)(C) is amended by
13 striking “boxer’s rating” and inserting “boxer
14 or fighter’s rating”.

15 (10) Section 13 of such Act is further amend-
16 ed—

17 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “boxer’s
18 purse” and inserting “boxer or fighter’s purse”;
19 and

20 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “boxer’s
21 purse” and inserting “boxer or fighter’s purse”.

22 (11) Section 17(b)(2)(B) of such Act (15
23 U.S.C. 6308(b)(2)(B)) is further amended by insert-
24 ing “, and fighters participating in a mixed martial
25 arts competition or other combat sport competition

1 scheduled for 11 minutes or more” after “10 rounds
2 or more”.

3 (12) Section 18(b)(3) of such Act (15 U.S.C.
4 6309(b)(3)) is further amended by inserting “or
5 combat sport” after “State boxing”.

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