

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 538

BY REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

AMUSEMENTS/SPORTS: Provides with respect to the State Boxing and Wrestling Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 4:61(A), 65(A)(2) and (B), 67(C)(1), 72, 79(C), 81.1(A),

3 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),

4 relative to the State Boxing and Wrestling Commission; to change the name of the

5 commission; to provide with respect to a safety zone for events; to provide for the

6 assessment of fees; to provide that the board shall not receive any state funds; to

7 repeal provisions regarding salaries for board members; to repeal the statutorily

8 defined amounts of certain licensing fees; to authorize the board to fix salaries and

9 licensing fees; to provide with respect to an events coordinator; to provide with

10 respect to the venue capacity for certain professional wrestling events; to provide for

11 professional wrestling event fees; to provide for an exception for professional

12 wrestling bonds; and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 4:61(A), 65(A)(2) and (B), 67(C)(1), 72, 79(C), 81.1(A), 83(B)(2)

15 and (C)(1), and 85(3) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 4:67(C)(4) is hereby

16 enacted to read as follows:

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

18 authority

19 A. There is hereby created a ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State

20 Athletic Commission within the office of the governor. It shall consist of seven

1 members, all of whom shall be appointed by the governor to serve at the pleasure of  
 2 the governor making the appointment. Five members appointed by the governor  
 3 shall be appointed, one from each Public Service Commission district and two from  
 4 the state at large. Each appointment by the governor shall be submitted to the Senate  
 5 for confirmation. The governor shall designate one member as chairman, one  
 6 member as secretary, and one member as vice chairman. The secretary shall execute  
 7 a bond of five thousand dollars, in favor of the state treasurer, for the faithful  
 8 performance of the duties of his office. The premium of this bond shall be paid out  
 9 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:

\* \* \*

- 1            B. The commission may charge the following fees for licenses:
- 2            (1) Wrestling and mixed technique event promoters... . . . . \$ ~~250.00~~ 500.00
- 3            (2) Boxing promoters... . . . . \$ ~~500.00~~ 250.00
- 4            (3) Matchmakers... . . . . \$ ~~250.00~~ 150.00
- 5            (4) Referees... . . . . \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 6            (5) Managers... . . . . \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 7            (6) Announcers... . . . . \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 8            (7) Professional boxing contestants in main bouts... . . . . \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 9            (8) Seconds... . . . . \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 10           (9) Professional wrestling contestants... . . . . \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 11           (10) Other licenses... . . . . \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00

\* \* \*

§67. Gross receipts tax; disbursements

\* \* \*

C.(1) The taxes provided for by this Section shall constitute a special fund, which shall be disbursed as provided in this Chapter. The commission shall receive the following salaries: the chairman shall receive a salary of ten thousand dollars per annum; the vice chairman shall receive a salary of six thousand four hundred dollars per annum; the secretary shall receive a salary of seven thousand two hundred dollars per annum; the four other members of the commission each shall receive a salary of ~~four~~ six thousand ~~three hundred~~ dollars per annum, ~~said~~ all salaries to be paid from the monies available in the special fund. If the money available in the special fund is insufficient to pay the maximum salaries herein authorized, such salaries shall be reduced proportionately and paid in such amounts as will not exceed the funds available in the special fund. ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, any commissioner who is required to travel to attend, organize, or oversee any boxing event, mixed technique event, or wrestling event shall be entitled to the~~

1 ~~payment of a per diem of eighty dollars per day, such amount being immediately due~~  
2 ~~and payable to the commission member at the time of the given event.~~

3 \* \* \*

4 (4) Each member of the commission shall receive a per diem, in an amount  
5 set by the commission, not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars per day, for  
6 attendance at commission meetings or other official commission-approved business  
7 or activities, not to exceed ten days in any one month. Each member shall be  
8 reimbursed actual expenses reasonably necessary for attending commission or  
9 committee meetings or for representing the commission or participating in an official  
10 commission-approved activity.

11 \* \* \*

12 §72. ~~Proximity of seats to ring, seating for the commission~~ Safety Zone

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 \* \* \*

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

2 \* \* \*

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

7 \* \* \*

8 §81.1. Tough-man contest; prohibition

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

20 \* \* \*

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

23 \* \* \*

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

27 \* \* \*

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

4 \* \* \*

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

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

11 \* \* \*

12 §85. Definitions; construction

13 As used in this Chapter:

14 \* \* \*

15 (3) "Commission" means the ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State  
16 Athletic Commission.

17 \* \* \*

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

19 §4.1. Agencies transferred from Louisiana Economic Development to the office of  
20 the governor; agencies placed within the office of the governor

21 \* \* \*

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

25 \* \* \*

26 (11) ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State Athletic Commission (R.S.  
27 4:61 et seq.).

28 \* \* \*

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

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## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 538 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Wyble

**Abstract:** Provides for changes to the State Boxing and Wrestling Commission.

Present law provides that the State Boxing and Wrestling Commission (commission) has authority to regulate boxing and wrestling contests.

Proposed law changes the name of the commission to the Louisiana State Athletic Commission and otherwise retains present law.

Present law establishes fixed salaries for members of the commission and commission employees.

Proposed law changes the salaries of some members of the commission.

Present law establishes fixed fees for various license types issued by the commission.

Proposed law increases the fees for those licenses.

Proposed law creates a safety zone for events which proposed law defines as an area around the ring or cage extending no less than eight feet as measured from the ring, cage, or from the catwalk which shall be partitioned at that distance of eight feet using ropes, fencing, police barriers, bicycle barriers, or other emplacements from the public seating.

Proposed law further provides that no one not specifically authorized by commission members in attendance may sit in the safety zone and non-compliance can result in a person being ejected from the event.

The proposed law safety zone replaces the present law provisions regarding seat proximity to the ring.

Present law provides a per diem to be paid to commission members to oversee or attend boxing, wrestling, or mixed technique events.

Proposed law repeals per diem provisions of present law and provides for per diem, not to exceed \$150, to be paid to commission members for attendance at commission meetings and activities.

Present law provides that the commission may appoint an events coordinator, not on the commission, for any boxing event the commission deems necessary, whose fee shall be paid by the club promoting the event in question, which amount shall not exceed \$350 per event.

Proposed law removes prohibition that the events coordinator cannot be on the commission and removes the \$350 amount of the fee and allows the fee to be set by commission.

Proposed law changes the name of the State Boxing and Wrestling Commission to the Louisiana State Athletic Commission in applicable present law.

(Amends 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); Adds R.S. 4:67(C)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Increase fees for various license types issued by the commission.
2. Increase salaries for certain commission members.
3. Remove provisions that no state funds will be expended by the commission.
4. Provide for a per diem for commission members who attend meetings or activities.