

ACT No. 290

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 538

BY REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE

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
21 members, all of whom shall be appointed by the governor to serve at the pleasure of
22 the governor making the appointment. Five members appointed by the governor

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

8 * * *

9 §65. Licenses; fees; bond

10 A.

11 * * *

12 (2) Before any such license is granted, the applicant shall execute and file
 13 with the ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State Athletic Commission a bond
 14 of five thousand dollars in favor of the Louisiana State ~~Boxing and Wrestling~~
 15 Athletic Commission as a security of good faith and ability to abide by the terms and
 16 provisions of this Chapter, for which the commission secretary shall issue to the
 17 applicant a certificate of its filing and approval. In lieu thereof, a certified check will
 18 be acceptable, which amount shall be kept on deposit by the secretary for the
 19 duration of the license period. This bond may be increased by the commission
 20 before approving the holding, conducting, or giving of any boxing, mixed technique
 21 event, or wrestling exhibition or contest, based upon the seating capacity of the hall
 22 or facility where said contest or exhibition is to be conducted. The following
 23 schedule shall govern the amount of the additional bond that may be required to be
 24 posted with the commission for the holding, conducting, or giving of a boxing,
 25 mixed technique event, or wrestling contest or exhibition:

26 * * *

27 B. The commission may charge the following fees for licenses:

- 28 (1) Wrestling and mixed technique event promoters... . \$ ~~250.00~~ 500.00
- 29 (2) Boxing promoters..... \$ ~~500.00~~ 250.00
- 30 (3) Matchmakers..... \$ ~~250.00~~ 150.00

- 1 (4) Referees. \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 2 (5) Managers. \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 3 (6) Announcers. \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 4 (7) Professional boxing contestants in main bouts. \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 5 (8) Seconds. \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 6 (9) Professional wrestling contestants. \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00
- 7 (10) Other licenses. \$ ~~25.00~~ 35.00

8 * * *

9 §67. Gross receipts tax; disbursements

10 * * *

11 C.(1) The taxes provided for by this Section shall constitute a special fund,
 12 which shall be disbursed as provided in this Chapter. The commission shall receive
 13 the following salaries: the chairman shall receive a salary of ten thousand dollars per
 14 annum; the vice chairman shall receive a salary of six thousand four hundred dollars
 15 per annum; the secretary shall receive a salary of seven thousand two hundred dollars
 16 per annum; the four other members of the commission each shall receive a salary of
 17 ~~four~~ six thousand ~~three hundred~~ dollars per annum, ~~said~~ all salaries to be paid from
 18 the monies available in the special fund. If the money available in the special fund
 19 is insufficient to pay the maximum salaries herein authorized, such salaries shall be
 20 reduced proportionately and paid in such amounts as will not exceed the funds
 21 available in the special fund. ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section,~~
 22 ~~any commissioner who is required to travel to attend, organize, or oversee any~~
 23 ~~boxing event, mixed technique event, or wrestling event shall be entitled to the~~
 24 ~~payment of a per diem of eighty dollars per day, such amount being immediately due~~
 25 ~~and payable to the commission member at the time of the given event.~~

26 * * *

27 (4) Each member of the commission shall receive a per diem, in an amount
 28 set by the commission, not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars per day, for
 29 attendance at commission meetings or other official commission-approved business
 30 or activities, not to exceed ten days in any one month. Each member shall be

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 reimbursed actual expenses reasonably necessary for attending commission or
2 committee meetings or for representing the commission or participating in an official
3 commission-approved activity.

4 * * *

5 §72. ~~Proximity of seats to ring; seating for the commission~~ Safety Zone

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 * * *

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

24 * * *

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

29 * * *

1 §81.1. Tough-man contest; prohibition

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

13 * * *

14 §83. Application of Chapter; professional wrestling events; required notice;
15 exemptions

16 * * *

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

20 * * *

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

24 * * *

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

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

31 * * *

1 §85. Definitions; construction

2 As used in this Chapter:

3 * * *

4 (3) "Commission" means the ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State
5 Athletic Commission.

6 * * *

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

8 §4.1. Agencies transferred from Louisiana Economic Development to the office of
9 the governor; agencies placed within the office of the governor

10 * * *

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

14 * * *

15 (11) ~~State Boxing and Wrestling~~ Louisiana State Athletic Commission (R.S.
16 4:61 et seq.).

17 * * *

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____