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INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 597, L.D. 950, “An Act to Define "Kickboxing" and "Muay Thai" in the Laws Governing Mixed Martial Arts and Boxing”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Authorize Kickboxing and Muay Thai Competition Under the Combat Sports Authority of Maine'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 8 MRSA c. 20, headnote is amended to read:

CHAPTER 20

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, MUAY THAI, KICKBOXING AND BOXING

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §521, sub-§3-B is enacted to read:

3-B. Kickboxing. "Kickboxing" means a combative sport that is a form of boxing in which blows are delivered with the hand and any part of the leg below the hip, including the bare foot, with the intent to disable or cause injury to an opponent in a contest, exhibition or event.

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §521, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 352, §2, is amended to read:

4. Mixed martial arts. "Mixed martial arts" means a combative sport for compensation that features a mixture of karate, jiu-jitsu, ~~muay thai~~ Muay Thai, tae kwon do, boxing, ~~kiek-boxing~~ kickboxing, wrestling, judo and striking and grappling techniques.

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §521, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **5. Muay Thai.** "Muay Thai" means a combative sport that is a form of boxing in
2 which blows are delivered with the fist, elbow, knee and shin and in which various
3 clinch techniques are employed, with the intent to disable or cause injury to an opponent
4 in a contest, exhibition or event.

5 **Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §522, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 305, §4, is further
6 amended to read:

7 **2. Purpose.** The authority is established to regulate and promote mixed martial arts,
8 Muay Thai, kickboxing and boxing competitions, exhibitions and events in the State as set
9 forth in this chapter. A mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition,
10 exhibition or event may not be held in the State prior to the adoption of rules pursuant to
11 this chapter.

12 **Sec. 6. 8 MRSA §522, sub-§7,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 305, §4, is further
13 amended to read:

14 **7. Revenue and expenditures.** The board may receive revenue from mixed martial
15 arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing and boxing competitions, exhibitions and events, as well as
16 from the sale of goods and merchandise, in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to
17 sections 523 and 524. The authority may apply for, solicit and receive grants, donations
18 and gifts and may receive appropriations from the State and funds from other governmental
19 authorities. All funds received must be spent solely to assist with operational expenses in
20 furtherance of the purpose of the authority. Funds may be used to compensate members of
21 the authority for per diem and expenses in accordance with the board's bylaws. The board
22 may enter into contracts to obtain the assistance of staff sufficient to support operations of
23 the board.

24 **Sec. 7. 8 MRSA §523, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 305, §5, is further
25 amended to read:

26 **1. Rules.** Adopt rules to protect the health and safety of authorized participants and
27 the integrity of competition, as well as to establish a certification process authorizing
28 participation in a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition,
29 exhibition or event and set the fee schedules for all authorized participants. A certificate
30 authorizing participation in a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing
31 competition, exhibition or event may be issued for one year or such other time period as
32 may be fixed by rule under this chapter. The board may establish requirements to ensure
33 that a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event
34 is not conducted unless a promoter's fee has been paid and that each competitor has been
35 examined by a physician who has certified the competitor's fitness to participate in the
36 mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event.
37 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules, as defined in Title 5,
38 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Notwithstanding this subsection, rules establishing fees,
39 including promotion fees pursuant to section 524, are major substantive rules as defined in
40 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The authority's rules must include, but are not limited
41 to, the following:

- 42 A. Rules of competition, weighing of participants and scoring of decisions;
43 B. Length of contests and rounds;

- 1 C. Availability of medical services, including a requirement that a physician be present
- 2 during a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition
- 3 or event;
- 4 D. Age limits, which must include a minimum age of not less than 18 years;
- 5 E. Weight limits and classification of participants;
- 6 F. Physical condition of participants;
- 7 G. Qualifications of referees and other authorized participants;
- 8 H. Uniforms, attire, safety gear and equipment of authorized participants;
- 9 I. Specifications of facilities and equipment; and
- 10 J. Requirements for health and accident insurance providing coverage in the event of
- 11 injury or death to authorized participants. This coverage must comply with standards
- 12 prescribed by the Superintendent of Insurance.

13 **Sec. 8. 8 MRSA §524**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 305, §6, is further amended to
14 read:

15 **§524. Promotion fees**

16 In addition to the requirements set by rule pursuant to section 523, a promoter of a
17 mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event
18 authorized under this chapter must pay a fee set by the authority in advance of the mixed
19 martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event. A
20 promoter who fails to pay the fee required pursuant to this section is prohibited from
21 promoting the competition as well as any further competitions, exhibitions or events held
22 under this chapter until the fee and any penalties are paid in full or satisfactory
23 arrangements are made with the authority.

24 **Sec. 9. 8 MRSA §526**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 305, §8, is further amended to
25 read:

26 **§526. Prohibited interests of officers, directors and employees**

27 A director of the authority or a spouse, domestic partner or dependent child of a director
28 of the authority may not receive any direct personal benefit from the activities or
29 undertakings of the authority. This section does not prohibit corporations or other entities
30 with which a director is associated by reason of ownership or employment from
31 participating in mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing activities if ownership
32 or employment is made known to the authority and the director abstains from voting on
33 matters relating to that participation. A director of the authority must comply with the
34 requirements of Title 5, section 18.

35 **Sec. 10. 8 MRSA §529**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 305, §9, is further amended to
36 read:

37 **§529. Powers of board**

38 **1. Inspections and investigations.** The board may enter and inspect the premises
39 where a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or
40 event is to be conducted and question persons present and review documents to the extent

1 it considers necessary to determine whether the event is in accordance with this chapter and
2 rules adopted under this chapter.

3 **2. Other action.** The board may take all reasonable steps to ensure that a mixed
4 martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event is
5 conducted in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter and take all
6 other lawful action necessary and incidental to its purposes.

7 **Sec. 11. 8 MRSA §532**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 305, §10, is further amended to
8 read:

9 **§532. Fines; enforcement**

10 The board may, after a hearing under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4, impose a fine
11 of not more than \$500 for each violation against a person who violates this chapter or rules
12 adopted pursuant to this chapter or who participates in a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai,
13 kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event without the certificate described
14 under section 523, subsection 1. The Attorney General may bring an action in Superior
15 Court to enjoin a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition,
16 exhibition or event from occurring for which the promoter's fee has not been paid or a
17 participant who does not meet the qualifications of this chapter from participating in the
18 competition, exhibition or event.

19 **Sec. 12. 17-A MRSA §515, sub-§2-A**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 305, §12, is
20 further amended to read:

21 **2-A.** This section does not apply to any mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or
22 boxing competition, exhibition or event authorized pursuant to Title 8, chapter 20 as long
23 as rules have been adopted by the Combat Sports Authority of Maine pursuant to Title 8,
24 chapter 20.'

25 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
26 number to read consecutively.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This amendment replaces the bill. It adds definitions for "kickboxing" and "Muay
29 Thai" to the laws governing mixed martial arts and boxing, brings kickboxing and Muay
30 Thai under the jurisdiction of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine and exempts
31 kickboxing and Muay Thai, as authorized by the authority, from the crime of unlawful prize
32 fighting.

33 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

34 **(See attached)**