

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—
H.P. 597 - L.D. 950

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

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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, ~~kick boxing~~ kickboxing, wrestling, judo and striking and grappling techniques.

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

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

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

2. Purpose. The authority is established to regulate and promote mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing and boxing competitions, exhibitions and events in the State as set

forth in this chapter. A mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event may not be held in the State prior to the adoption of rules pursuant to this chapter.

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

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

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

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

- A. Rules of competition, weighing of participants and scoring of decisions;
- B. Length of contests and rounds;
- C. Availability of medical services, including a requirement that a physician be present during a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event;
- D. Age limits, which must include a minimum age of not less than 18 years;
- E. Weight limits and classification of participants;
- F. Physical condition of participants;
- G. Qualifications of referees and other authorized participants;
- H. Uniforms, attire, safety gear and equipment of authorized participants;

- I. Specifications of facilities and equipment; and
- J. Requirements for health and accident insurance providing coverage in the event of injury or death to authorized participants. This coverage must comply with standards prescribed by the Superintendent of Insurance.

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

§524. Promotion fees

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

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

§526. Prohibited interests of officers, directors and employees

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

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

§529. Powers of board

1. Inspections and investigations. The board may enter and inspect the premises where a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event is to be conducted and question persons present and review documents to the extent it considers necessary to determine whether the event is in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

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

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

§532. Fines; enforcement

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

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

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