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By the Committee on Tourism and Representatives Starks, Farkas, Barreiro, Sobel, Dennis, Melvin, Lynn, Argenziano, Bloom, Hafner and Bush

A bill to be entitled An act relating to the State Athletic Commission; amending s. 548.002, F.S.; providing definitions; amending s. 548.003, F.S.; changing the name of the commission to the Florida State Boxing Commission; assigning the commission to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for administrative and fiscal accountability purposes only; providing procedures for filling vacancies on commission; expanding scope of rules; eliminating branch offices; requiring selection of vice chair; providing for removal of commission members for specified absences; providing accountability for commission members; increasing compensation rate for attendance of meetings; authorizing membership and participation by the commission in specified associations; amending s. 548.004, F.S.; renaming the executive secretary of the commission as the executive director; requiring approval of the Governor in hiring of the executive director; providing additional duties of the executive director; delineating circumstances for removal of executive director; eliminating the appointment of deputies; requiring electronic recording of commission proceedings; requiring the department to provide assistance to the commission under certain circumstances; creating s. 548.005, F.S.; providing budget

1 submission and preparation requirements; 2 creating s. 548.0055, F.S.; requiring the 3 department to oversee the activities of the 4 commission; providing for long-range policy 5 planning, and preparation of plans, reports, 6 and recommendations; requiring submission to 7 the Governor and Legislature; amending s. 8 548.006, F.S.; providing that matches shall be held in accordance with commission rules; 9 amending s. 548.007, F.S.; providing for 10 11 applicability of the act to toughman and badman 12 competitions; amending s. 548.008, F.S.; 13 prohibiting professional or amateur toughman 14 and badman competitions; providing a penalty; 15 amending s. 548.014, F.S.; requiring surety 16 bond to apply to promoters or foreign copromoters; increasing the minimum amount for 17 surety bond; revising options to surety bond; 18 eliminating a filing fee; amending ss. 548.025, 19 20 548.041, and 548.042, F.S.; removing provisions relating to amateurs and amateur matches; 21 amending s. 548.043, F.S.; revising provisions 22 regulating weights, classes, and gloves; 23 24 amending s. 548.045, F.S.; revising provisions 25 relating to the medical advisory council; 26 providing for appointment of the council by the 27 commission; revising terms of council members; 28 amending s. 548.046, F.S.; revising the time 29 for examination of participants by physician and filing of physician report; amending s. 30 31 548.053, F.S.; revising provisions relating to

1 distribution of purses to participants; 2 requiring promoters and managers to retain 3 certain information for a designated time; 4 amending s. 548.054, F.S.; designating those 5 persons authorized to order the surrender of a purse or the withholding of a manager's share; 6 7 amending s. 548.057, F.S.; providing for 8 appointment of judges at a boxing match; 9 requiring certain qualifications for referees, judges, and officials; removing the requirement 10 11 that scorecards be turned in at the end of each contest; amending ss. 548.05, 548.071, and 12 13 548.077, F.S., to conform; providing an 14 effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Subsections (3), (4), (5), and (9) of section 548.002, Florida Statutes, are amended, subsections (5) through (15) are renumbered as subsections (6) through (16), respectively, and new subsections (5) and (17) are added to said section to read:

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548.002 Definitions.--As used in this act, the term:

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(3) "Commission" means the <u>Florida</u> State <u>Boxing</u> Athletic Commission.

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(4) "Contest" means a boxing or-kickboxing, or martial arts engagement in which the participants strive earnestly to win.

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(5) "Department" means the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

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(6)(5) "Exhibition" means a boxing or-kickboxing, or martial arts engagement in which the participants show or display their skill without necessarily striving to win.

(10)(9) "Manager" means any person who, directly or indirectly, controls or administers the boxing or-kickboxingor martial arts affairs of any participant.

(17) "Secretary" means the secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Section 2. Section 548.003, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

548.003 Florida State Boxing Athletic Commission; organization; meetings; accountability of commission members; compensation and travel expenses; association membership and participation. --

(1) The Florida State Boxing Athletic Commission is created and is assigned to under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for administrative and fiscal accountability purposes only. The Florida State Boxing Athletic Commission shall consist of five members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Upon the expiration of the term of a commissioner, the Governor shall appoint a successor to serve for a 4-year term. A commissioner whose term has expired shall continue to serve on the commission until such time as a replacement is appointed. If a vacancy on the commission occurs prior to the expiration of the term, it shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.

(2) The Florida State Boxing Athletic Commission, as created by subsection (1), shall administer the provisions of this chapter. The commission has authority to adopt rules 31 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the

 provisions of this chapter and to implement each of the duties and responsibilities conferred upon the commission, including, but not limited to: development of an ethical code of conduct for commissioners, commission staff, and commission officials; procedures for hearings and resolution of disputes; qualifications for appointment of referees and judges; and setting fee and reimbursement schedules for officials appointed by the commission.

- (3) The commission shall maintain an office in Tallahassee and any necessary branch offices. At the first meeting of the commission after June 1 of each year, the commission shall select a chair and a vice chair from among its membership. Three members shall constitute a quorum and the concurrence of at least three members is necessary for official commission action.
- (4) Three consecutive unexcused absences or absences constituting 50 percent or more of the commission's meetings within any 12-month period shall cause the commission membership of the member in question to become void, and the position shall be considered vacant. The commission shall, by rule, define unexcused absences.
- Governor for the proper performance of duties as a member of the commission. The Governor shall cause to be investigated any complaint or unfavorable report received by the Governor or the department concerning an action of the commission or any member and shall take appropriate action thereon. The Governor may remove from office any member for malfeasance, unethical conduct, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, or pleading

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guilty or nolo contendere to or being found guilty of a felony.

- (6) (4) Each member of the commission shall be compensated at the rate of \$50\$ for each day she or he attends a commission meeting and shall be reimbursed for other expenses as provided in s. 112.061.
- (7) The commission shall be authorized to join and participate in the activities of the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC).

Section 3. Section 548.004, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.004 Executive director secretary; deputies; duties, compensation, administrative support. --

- (1) The commission shall employ an executive director with the approval of the Governor. The executive director secretary who shall receive a salary to be fixed by the commission with the approval of the Governor. The executive secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the commission; shall preserve all books, papers, and documents pertaining to the business of the commission; shall prepare any notices and papers required; shall appoint judges, referees, and other officials as delegated by the commission and pursuant to this chapter and rules of the commission; and shall perform such other duties as the commission directs. The executive director secretary may issue witness subpoenas and administer oaths.
- (2) The executive director may be removed from her or his position by the commission or the Governor for malfeasance, unethical conduct, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability to perform official duties, 31 pleading guilty or nolo contendere to or being found guilty of

a felony, or willfully and wantonly disregarding the 1 2 procedures and policies set forth by the commission. The commission shall require electronic recording 3 4 of all scheduled proceedings of the commission. 5 (4) The department, if requested by the commission, 6 shall provide assistance in budget development and budget 7 submission for state funding requests. The department shall 8 provide technical assistance and administrative support, if 9 requested or determined needed, to the commission and its executive director on issues relating to personnel, 10 contracting, property management, or other issues identified 11 12 as important to performing the duties of this chapter and to 13 protecting the interests of the state. 14 (2) The commission may appoint any deputies that are necessary, whose compensation shall be the same as that of the 15 16 commissioners. A deputy shall, on the order of the 17 commission, represent the commission at a boxing match. Section 4. Section 548.005, Florida Statutes, is 18 19 created to read: 20 548.005 Submission of annual budget.--The commission shall develop a budget pursuant to chapter 216. The budget is 21 22 not subject to change by the department unless, after consultation with the commission, the change has been agreed 23 to by the commission. The budget of the commission shall be 24 25 submitted to the Governor along with the budget of the 26 department. 27 Section 5. Section 548.0055, Florida Statutes, is 28 created to read: 29 548.0055 Oversight of the commission; long-range

policy planning; plans, reports, and recommendations. --

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30 31 (1) The department shall exercise oversight of the activities of the commission to the extent necessary to facilitate the requirements of this section.

- (2) To facilitate efficient and cost-effective regulation, the commission and the department, where appropriate, shall develop and implement a long-range policy planning and monitoring process to include recommendations specific to the commission. Included in the plan shall be specific recommendations regarding performance standards and measurable outcomes for the commission. Such process shall include estimates of revenues, expenditures, cash balances, and performance statistics for the commission. The period covered shall not be less than 5 years. The commission, with assistance from the department, shall develop the long-range plan which must be approved by the Governor. The department shall monitor compliance with the approved long-range plan and shall assist the commission in annually updating the plan for approval by the Governor. The department shall provide concise management reports to the commission and the Governor quarterly. As part of the review process, the department shall evaluate:
- (a) Whether the commission is operating efficiently and effectively and if there is need for assistance to help the commission in ensuring cost-effective regulation.
- (b) How and why pugilistic exhibitions and contests are regulated.
- (c) Whether there is a need to continue regulation, and to what degree.
- (d) Whether or not licensee and consumer protection is adequate, and how it can be improved.

(e) Whether unlicensed activity is adequately enforced.

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Such plans should include conclusions and recommendations on these and other issues as appropriate. Such plans shall be provided to the Governor and the Legislature by November 1 of each year.

Section 6. Section 548.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.006 Power of commission to control pugilistic contests and exhibitions.—The commission has exclusive jurisdiction over every match held within the state which involves a professional. Matches shall be held only in accordance with this chapter and the rules adopted by the commission.

Section 7. Section 548.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.007 Applicability of act to amateur matches and certain other matches or events.--With the exception of s. 548.008, sections 548.001-548.079 do not apply to:

- (1) Any match in which the participants are amateurs;
- (2) Any match conducted or sponsored by a university, college, or secondary school if all the participants are students regularly enrolled in the institution;
- (3) Any match conducted or sponsored by a nationally chartered veterans' organization registered with the state;
- (4) Any match conducted or sponsored by any company or detachment of the Florida National Guard; or
 - (5) Any official Olympic event.
- 30 Section 8. Section 548.008, Florida Statutes, is 31 amended to read:

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548.008 Toughman and badman competition prohibited .--

- (1) No professional or amateur toughman or badman match, as described in this section, may be held in this state. Such competition includes any contest or exhibition where participants compete by using a combination of fighting skills. Such skills may include, but are not limited to, boxing, wrestling, kicking, or martial arts skills. Notwithstanding the above, this section shall not preclude kickboxing as regulated by this chapter.
- (2) Any person participating in or promoting a professional or amateur toughman or badman match is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 548.014, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

548.014 Promoters and foreign copromoters; bonds or other security .--

- (1)(a) Before any license is issued or renewed to a promoter or foreign copromoter and before any permit is issued to a promoter or foreign copromoter, she or he must file a surety bond with the commission in such reasonable amount, but not less than $$15,000 \frac{$3,000}{}$, as the commission determines.
- (2) In lieu of a surety bond, the promoter or foreign copromoter may deposit with the commission cash or, a certified check, or direct obligations of the United States or this state which are acceptable to the commission in an equivalent amount and subject to the same conditions as the bond. No such security may be returned to the promoter until 1 year after the date on which it was deposited with the 31 commission unless a surety bond is substituted for it. If no

claim against the deposit is outstanding, it shall be returned to the depositor 1 year from the date it was deposited.

(3) A filing fee of \$10 shall accompany each bond, cash, or security deposited under this section.

(3) (4) Recovery may be made against any bond, cash, or other security in the same manner as penalties are recoverable at law.

Section 10. Section 548.025, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.025 License fees.--

- (1) The commission shall set license fees as follows:
- (1) (a) Promoter, matchmaker--not to exceed \$500.
- (2)(b) Any other license--not to exceed \$100.
- (2) The commission may issue licenses, without charge, to referees and physicians authorizing them to officiate only at matches involving amateurs.

Section 11. Section 548.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.041 Age of boxers.--A person under 18 years of age may not participate in any match, except that an amateur who is 16 or 17 years of age may participate in matches with other amateurs who are 16 or 17 years of age under rules adopted by the commission.

Section 12. Section 548.042, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.042 Participation under fictitious name.--A person may not participate under a fictitious or assumed name in any match involving an amateur unless she or he has registered the name with the commission.

Section 13. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 548.043, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

548.043 Weights and classes, limitations; gloves.--

- (2) The commission shall establish by rule the acceptable No boxing match shall be held in which the difference in weight between of the participants; however, the maximum difference in weight shall not exceed 12 exceeds 10 pounds, except matches in the cruiserweight light-heavyweight and heavyweight classes and exhibitions held solely for training purposes.
- (3) The commission shall establish by rule the appropriate weight of boxing gloves to be used in each boxing match; however, all participants in boxing matches shall wear boxing gloves weighing not less than $\underline{8}$ 6 ounces each. Participants in all other types of matches shall wear such protective devices as the commission deems necessary.

Section 14. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 548.045, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

548.045 Medical advisory council; qualifications, compensation, powers and duties.--

- (1) A medical advisory council, which shall consist of five members appointed by the <u>commission</u> Governor, is created. Each member must be licensed to practice medicine in this state, <u>must maintain an unencumbered license in good standing</u>, and must, at the time of her or his appointment, have practiced medicine at least 5 years.
- (2) Initially, two of the members shall be appointed for terms of 1 year, one member shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, one member shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, and one member shall be appointed for a term of 4 years. The term of each member thereafter appointed, except to fill a vacancy, shall be $\underline{2}$ 4 years.

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The commission Governor shall designate one of the members of the council as its chair.

Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 548.046, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.046 Physician's attendance at match; examinations; cancellation of match. --

(2) In addition to any other required examination, each participant shall be examined by the attending physician at the time of weigh-in within 12 hours before she or he enters the ring. If the physician determines that a participant is physically or mentally unfit to proceed, the physician shall notify any commissioner or the commission representative deputy in charge who shall immediately cancel the match. The examination shall conform to rules adopted by the commission based on the advice of the medical advisory council. The result of the examination shall be reported in a writing signed by the physician and filed with the commission prior to completion of the weigh-in within 72 hours after the match.

Section 16. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 548.05, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

548.05 Control of contracts.--

(3) The commission may require that each contract contain language authorizing the Florida State Boxing Athletic Commission to withhold any or all of any manager's share of a purse in the event of a contractual dispute as to entitlement to any portion of a purse. The commission may establish rules governing the manner of resolution of such dispute. In addition, if the commission deems it appropriate, the commission is hereby authorized to implead interested parties 31 over any disputed funds into the appropriate circuit court for

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resolution of the dispute prior to release of all or any part of the funds.

(4) Each contract subject to this section shall contain the following clause: "This agreement is subject to the provisions of chapter 548, Florida Statutes, and to the rules of the Florida State Boxing Athletic Commission and to any future amendments of either."

Section 17. Section 548.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.053 Distribution of purses to participants; statements.--

- (1) Unless otherwise directed by a representative of the commission, all purses shall be distributed by the promoter no later than 24 hours after the match. A written statement showing the distribution of the purse, including each item of receipt and each expenditure or deduction, shall be furnished to the participant and her or his manager, together with the participant's share of the purse. promoter shall retain file a copy of the statement, certified by her or him to be correct, with receipted vouchers for all expenditures and deductions, for a period to be designated by the commission, which copy shall be provided to the commission upon demand with the commission no later than 72 hours after the match.
- (2) Unless otherwise directed by a representative of the commission, a manager shall furnish to the participant she or he manages a statement of distribution, together with the participant's share of the purse, no later than 24 hours after the manager receives the purse and statement from the promoter. The manager shall retain file a copy of the 31 statement, certified by her or him to be correct, with

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receipted vouchers for all expenditures and deductions, for a period to be designated by the commission, which copy shall be provided to the commission upon demand with the commission no later than 72 hours after the manager receives the distribution from the promoter.

Section 18. Subsection (1) of section 548.054, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.054 Withholding of purses; hearing; disposition of withheld purse forfeiture. --

- (1) A member of the commission, the commission representative the deputy in charge, or the referee may order a promoter to surrender to the commission withhold any purse or other funds payable to a participant, or to withhold the share of any manager, if it appears that:
- (a) The participant is not competing honestly, or is intentionally not competing to the best of her or his ability and skill, in a match represented to be a contest; or
- (b) The participant, her or his manager, or any of the participant's seconds has violated this chapter.

Section 19. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 548.057, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

548.057 Attendance of referee and judges at match; scoring; seconds. --

(2) At each boxing contest, at the expense of the promoters, three judges appointed by the executive director as delegated by the commission shall attend and shall render their individual decisions in writing on scorecards supplied by the commission at the end of each contest which continues for the scheduled number of rounds. Each judge shall have one vote, and a majority of the votes cast shall determine the 31 winner.

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The commission shall ensure that all referees, judges, and other officials are Florida-licensed officials qualified pursuant to rules of the commission and that no sanctioning organization or promoter has been permitted to influence the appointment of any officials, and shall prescribe the methods of scoring.

Section 20. Subsection (12) of section 548.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.071 Suspension or revocation of license or permit by commission. -- The commission may suspend or revoke a license or permit if the commission finds that the licensee or permittee:

(12) Has been disciplined by the Florida State Boxing Athletic Commission or similar agency or body of any jurisdiction.

Section 21. Section 548.077, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.077 Florida State Boxing Athletic Commission; collection and disposition of moneys.--All fees, fines, forfeitures, and other moneys collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid by the commission to the State Treasurer who, after the expenses of the commission are paid, shall deposit them in the Professional Regulation Trust Fund to be used for the administration and operation of the commission and to enforce the laws and rules under its jurisdiction. In the event the unexpended balance of such moneys collected under the provisions of this chapter exceeds \$250,000, any excess of that amount shall be deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

1 2 HOUSE SUMMARY 3 Revises various provisions of ss. 548.001 through 548.079, the "Joe Lang Kershaw Act." Renames the State Athletic Commission as the Florida State Boxing 4 Commission. Assigns the commission to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for administrative and fiscal accountability purposes only. Revises various provisions relating to the commission to: 5 6 7 Provide procedures for filling vacancies on the 1. commission. 8 Expand the scope of rules adopted by the 2. commission 3. Eliminate branch offices of the commission.
4. Provides accountability for commission members.
5. Increase the specified compensation rate for commission members from \$25 to \$50. 9 10 6. Authorize membership and participation by the commission in the Association of Boxing Commissions. 11 7. Rename the executive secretary of the commission as the executive director and require the approval of the Governor in hiring the executive director.

8. Delineate reasons for removal of the executive 12 13 14 director. 9. Eliminate the appointment of deputies. 10. Require electronic recording of commission 15 proceedings. 16 11. Require the department to provide specified assistance to the commission under certain circumstances.
12. Provide budget submission and preparation 17 requirements. 18 13. Require the department to oversee the commission. 19 14. Provide for long-range policy planning and preparation of plans, reports, and recommendations. 14. 20 Provides that boxing matches be held in accordance with commission rules. Provides applicability of the act to toughman and badman competitions and prohibits both professional and amateur toughman and badman 21 22 competitions. Provides a second-degree misdemeanor penalty. Requires surety bonds to apply to promoters. Increases the minimum amount for surety bonds from \$3,000 to \$15,000, and revises the options to posting a surety bond. Eliminates a \$10 filing fee. Revises provisions which regulate weights, classes, and gloves. 23 24 25 26 Revises provisions relating to the medical advisory council. Provides for the appointment of the council by the commission, rather than the Governor, and revises terms of council members. 27 2.8 29 30 Revises the time for examination of participants by a physician and the filing of the physician's report. Revises provisions relating to distribution of purses to participants. Requires promoters and managers to retain

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

certain information for a designated time. Provides for the appointment of judges at a boxing match by the executive director of the commission. Requires certain qualifications for referees, judges, and officials. Removes a requirement that scorecards be turned in at the end of each contest.