

By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Lynn

315-2147-04

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to pugilistic contests and  
3           exhibitions; providing a short title; amending  
4           s. 548.002, F.S.; defining the term "amateur  
5           sanctioning organization"; revising certain  
6           definitions to apply them to both amateur and  
7           professional participants; amending s. 548.003,  
8           F.S.; providing the Florida State Boxing  
9           Commission the responsibility for, and the  
10          authority to adopt rules relating to, the  
11          approval of amateur sanctioning organizations  
12          for amateur boxing and kickboxing matches held  
13          in the state; authorizing the commission to  
14          adopt by rule, or incorporate by reference into  
15          rule, the health and safety standards of  
16          certain specified boxing and kickboxing  
17          organizations; requiring the commission to  
18          review its rules at least every 2 years;  
19          authorizing the commission to adopt emergency  
20          rules; amending s. 548.006, F.S.; limiting  
21          required certification of competitiveness of  
22          mixed martial arts and kickboxing matches to  
23          professional matches; expanding power of the  
24          commission to control pugilistic contests and  
25          exhibitions to include exclusive jurisdiction  
26          over the approval of amateur sanctioning  
27          organizations for amateur boxing and kickboxing  
28          matches; specifying requirements for the  
29          holding of professional and amateur matches;  
30          creating s. 548.0065, F.S.; prohibiting certain  
31          amateur matches except under certain

1           circumstances; prohibiting approval of amateur  
2           sanctioning organizations not meeting and  
3           enforcing certain health and safety standards  
4           and not meeting certain other background,  
5           training, and experience requirements;  
6           providing for periodic checks for compliance  
7           with enforcement and supervision requirements;  
8           providing procedures for suspending the  
9           approval of an amateur sanctioning organization  
10          that fails to comply with the health and safety  
11          standards required by ch. 548, F.S.; providing  
12          that a member of the commission or a  
13          representative of the commission may  
14          immediately suspend a match that appears to  
15          violate health and safety standards;  
16          authorizing a law enforcement officer to assist  
17          in enforcing a suspension order; requiring  
18          biennial or sooner, if necessary, sanctioning  
19          review; providing for continuation, suspension,  
20          or revocation of sanctioning approval pursuant  
21          to such review; amending s. 548.008, F.S.;  
22          prohibiting the holding of certain amateur  
23          matches not sanctioned and supervised by an  
24          amateur sanctioning organization approved by  
25          the commission; prohibiting the holding of  
26          amateur mixed martial arts matches; prohibiting  
27          the holding of professional matches not meeting  
28          the requirements of ch. 548, F.S., and rules  
29          adopted by the commission; providing penalties  
30          for participating in or holding, promoting, or  
31          sponsoring a prohibited match; deleting

1 provisions relating to professional or amateur  
2 toughman or badman competitions; amending s.  
3 548.007, F.S.; providing for the applicability  
4 of ch. 548, F.S., to amateur matches and  
5 certain other matches or events; amending s.  
6 548.056, F.S.; deleting a promoter from a list  
7 of persons who are prohibited from having a  
8 financial interest in a participant; providing  
9 an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Stacy Young  
14 Act."

15 Section 2. Section 548.002, Florida Statutes, is  
16 amended to read:

17 548.002 Definitions.--As used in this chapter act, the  
18 term:

19 (1) "Amateur" means a person who has never received  
20 nor competed for any purse or other article of value, either  
21 for the expenses of training or for participating in a match,  
22 other than a prize of \$50 in value or less.

23 (2) "Amateur sanctioning organization" means any  
24 business entity organized for sanctioning and supervising  
25 matches involving amateurs.

26 ~~(3)(2)~~ "Boxing" means to compete with the fists.

27 ~~(4)(3)~~ "Commission" means the Florida State Boxing  
28 Commission.

29 ~~(5)(4)~~ "Concessionaire" means any person or business  
30 entity not licensed as a promoter which receives revenues or  
31 other compensation from the sale of tickets or from the sale

1 of souvenirs, programs, broadcast rights, or any other  
2 concessions in conjunction with the promotion of a match.

3 (6)~~(5)~~ "Contest" means a boxing, kickboxing, or mixed  
4 martial arts engagement in which persons participating ~~the~~  
5 ~~participants~~ strive earnestly to win using, but not  
6 necessarily being limited to, strikes and blows to the head.

7 (7)~~(6)~~ "Department" means the Department of Business  
8 and Professional Regulation.

9 (8)~~(7)~~ "Exhibition" means a boxing, kickboxing, or  
10 mixed martial arts engagement in which persons participating  
11 ~~the participants~~ show or display their skill without  
12 necessarily striving to win using, but not necessarily being  
13 limited to, strikes and blows to the head.

14 (9)~~(8)~~ "Foreign copromoter" means a promoter who has  
15 no place of business within this state.

16 (10)~~(9)~~ "Judge" means a person who has a vote in  
17 determining the winner of any contest.

18 (11)~~(10)~~ "Kickboxing" means to compete with the fists,  
19 feet, legs, or any combination thereof, and includes  
20 "punchkick" and other similar competitions.

21 (12)~~(11)~~ "Manager" means any person who, directly or  
22 indirectly, controls or administers the boxing, kickboxing, or  
23 mixed martial arts affairs of any participant.

24 (13)~~(12)~~ "Match" means any contest or exhibition.

25 (14)~~(13)~~ "Matchmaker" means a person who brings  
26 together professionals or arranges matches for professionals.

27 (15)~~(14)~~ "Mixed martial arts" means unarmed combat  
28 involving the use, subject to any applicable limitations set  
29 forth in this chapter, of a combination of techniques from  
30 different disciplines of the martial arts, including, but not  
31 limited to, grappling, kicking, and striking.

1           (16)~~(15)~~ "Participant" means a professional competing  
2 in a boxing, kickboxing, or mixed martial arts match.

3           (17)~~(16)~~ "Physician" means an individual licensed to  
4 practice medicine and surgery in this state.

5           (18)~~(17)~~ "Professional" means a person who has  
6 received or competed for any purse or other article of a value  
7 greater than \$50, either for the expenses of training or for  
8 participating in any match.

9           (19)~~(18)~~ "Promoter" means any person, and includes any  
10 officer, director, employee, or stockholder of a corporate  
11 promoter, who produces, arranges, or stages any match  
12 involving a professional.

13           (20)~~(19)~~ "Purse" means the financial guarantee or  
14 other remuneration for which a professional is participating  
15 in a match and includes the professional's share of any  
16 payment received for radio broadcasting, television, and  
17 motion picture rights.

18           (21)~~(20)~~ "Second" or "cornerman" means a person who  
19 assists the match participant between rounds and maintains the  
20 corner of the participant during the match.

21           (22)~~(21)~~ "Secretary" means the Secretary of Business  
22 and Professional Regulation.

23           Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 548.003, Florida  
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25           548.003 Florida State Boxing Commission.--

26           (2) The Florida State Boxing Commission, as created by  
27 subsection (1), shall administer the provisions of this  
28 chapter. The commission has authority to adopt rules pursuant  
29 to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of  
30 this chapter and to implement each of the duties and  
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1 responsibilities conferred upon the commission, including, but  
2 not limited to:

3 (a) Development of an ethical code of conduct for  
4 commissioners, commission staff, and commission officials.†

5 (b) Facility and safety requirements relating to the  
6 ring, floor plan and apron seating, emergency medical  
7 equipment and services, and other equipment and services  
8 necessary for the conduct of a program of matches.†

9 (c) Requirements regarding a participant's apparel,  
10 bandages, handwraps, gloves, mouthpiece, and appearance during  
11 a match.†

12 (d) Requirements relating to a manager's  
13 participation, presence, and conduct during a match.†

14 (e) Duties and responsibilities of all licensees under  
15 this chapter.†

16 (f) Procedures for hearings and resolution of  
17 disputes.†

18 (g) Qualifications for appointment of referees and  
19 judges.†

20 (h) Qualifications for and appointment of chief  
21 inspectors and inspectors and duties and responsibilities of  
22 chief inspectors and inspectors with respect to oversight and  
23 coordination of activities for each program of matches  
24 regulated under this chapter.†

25 (i) Designation and duties of a knockdown timekeeper.†  
26 ~~and~~

27 (j) Setting fee and reimbursement schedules for  
28 referees and other officials appointed by the commission or  
29 the representative of the commission.

30 (k) Establishment of criteria for approval,  
31 disapproval, suspension of approval, and revocation of

1 approval of amateur sanctioning organizations for amateur  
2 boxing and kickboxing matches held in this state, including,  
3 but not limited to, the health and safety standards the  
4 organizations use before, during, and after the matches to  
5 ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the amateurs  
6 participating in the matches, including the qualifications and  
7 numbers of health care personnel required to be present, the  
8 qualifications required for referees, and other requirements  
9 relating to the health, safety, and well-being of the amateurs  
10 participating in the matches. The commission may adopt by  
11 rule, or incorporate by reference into rule, the health and  
12 safety standards of USA Boxing as the minimum health and  
13 safety standards for an amateur boxing sanctioning  
14 organization, and the health and safety standards of the  
15 International Sport Kickboxing Association as the minimum  
16 health and safety standards for an amateur kickboxing  
17 sanctioning organization. The commission shall review its  
18 rules for necessary revision at least every 2 years and may  
19 adopt by rule, or incorporate by reference into rule, the  
20 then-existing current health and safety standards of USA  
21 Boxing and the International Sport Kickboxing Association. The  
22 commission may adopt emergency rules to administer this  
23 paragraph.

24 Section 4. Section 548.006, Florida Statutes, is  
25 amended to read:

26 548.006 Power of commission to control professional  
27 and amateur pugilistic contests and exhibitions; certification  
28 of competitiveness of professional mixed martial arts and  
29 kickboxing matches.--

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1           (1) The commission has exclusive jurisdiction over  
2 every match held within the state which involves a  
3 professional.

4           (2) As to professional mixed martial arts and  
5 kickboxing, until a central repository of match records for  
6 each exists and is approved by the commission, the matchmaker  
7 shall certify as to the competitiveness of each match.

8           (3) The commission has exclusive jurisdiction over  
9 approval, disapproval, suspension of approval, and revocation  
10 of approval of all amateur sanctioning organizations for  
11 amateur boxing and kickboxing matches held in this state.

12           ~~(4)~~(3) Professional and amateur matches shall be held  
13 in accordance with this chapter and the rules adopted by the  
14 commission.

15           Section 5. Section 548.0065, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17           548.0065 Amateur matches; sanctioning and supervision;  
18 health and safety standards; compliance checks; continuation,  
19 suspension, and revocation of sanctioning approval.--

20           (1) No match involving amateurs which utilizes, but is  
21 not necessarily limited to, strikes or blows to the head may  
22 be held in this state unless it is sanctioned and supervised  
23 by an amateur sanctioning organization approved by the  
24 commission. An approved amateur sanctioning organization may  
25 only sanction and supervise the contests or exhibitions in the  
26 particular sport or sports for which it has expertise and for  
27 which it is approved by the commission.

28           (2) The commission may not approve any amateur  
29 sanctioning organization unless it has adopted and agreed to  
30 enforce a defined set of standards that applies to all matches  
31 which will adequately protect the health and safety of the



1 amateurs participating in the matches and the public and can  
2 adequately demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commission  
3 that the principals of the organization have sufficient  
4 background, training, and experience in sanctioning and  
5 supervising matches for which the organization is approved.

6 (3) Periodic compliance checks may be performed by a  
7 representative of the commission designated by the executive  
8 director in order to ensure enforcement of approved health and  
9 safety standards and supervision of matches by the approved  
10 amateur sanctioning organization.

11 (4) Any member of the commission or the executive  
12 director of the commission may suspend the approval of an  
13 amateur sanctioning organization for failure to supervise  
14 amateur matches or to enforce the approved health and safety  
15 standards required under this chapter, provided that the  
16 suspension complies with the procedures for summary  
17 suspensions in s. 120.60(6). At any amateur boxing or  
18 kickboxing contest, any member of the commission or a  
19 representative of the commission may immediately suspend one  
20 or more matches in an event whenever it appears that the match  
21 or matches violate the health and safety standards established  
22 by rule as required by this chapter. A law enforcement officer  
23 may assist any member of the commission or a representative of  
24 the commission to enforce an order to stop a contest if called  
25 upon to do so by a member of the commission or a  
26 representative of the commission.

27 (5) The commission shall review its approval of the  
28 amateur sanctioning organization at least biennially, or  
29 sooner if determined necessary based upon the periodic  
30 compliance checks or complaints to the commission, to  
31 determine continuation of approval. The commission may

1 continue approval or may suspend or revoke approval based upon  
2 compliance of the organization with the approved sanctioning  
3 standards and its ability to supervise matches in the state.

4 Section 6. Section 548.008, Florida Statutes, is  
5 amended to read:

6 548.008 ~~Toughman and badman competition~~ Prohibited  
7 competitions.--

8 (1) No match involving amateurs which utilizes, but is  
9 not necessarily limited to, strikes or blows to the head may  
10 be held in this state unless it is sanctioned and supervised  
11 by an amateur sanctioning organization approved by the  
12 commission as required by this chapter.

13 (2) No amateur mixed martial arts match may be held in  
14 this state.

15 (3) No professional match may be held in this state  
16 unless it meets the requirements for holding the match as  
17 provided in this chapter and the rules adopted by the  
18 commission.

19 ~~(1) No professional or amateur toughman or badman~~  
20 ~~match, as described in this section, may be held in this~~  
21 ~~state. Such competition includes any contest or exhibition~~  
22 ~~where participants compete by using a combination of skills.~~  
23 ~~Such skills may include, but are not limited to, boxing,~~  
24 ~~wrestling, kicking, or martial arts skills. Notwithstanding~~  
25 ~~the above, this section shall not preclude kickboxing or mixed~~  
26 ~~martial arts as regulated by this chapter.~~

27 (4)(a)(2) Any person participating in a match  
28 prohibited under this section, knowing the match to be  
29 prohibited, commits or promoting a professional or amateur  
30 toughman or badman match is guilty of a misdemeanor of the  
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1 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
2 775.083.

3 (b) Any person holding, promoting, or sponsoring a  
4 match prohibited under this section commits a felony of the  
5 third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.  
6 775.083, or s. 775.084.

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

9 (Substantial rewording of section. See  
10 s. 548.007, F.S., for present text.)

11 548.007 Applicability of act to amateur matches and  
12 certain other matches or events.--With the exception of s.  
13 548.008, ss. 548.001-548.079 do not apply to:

14 (1) A match conducted or sponsored by a bona fide  
15 nonprofit school or education program whose primary purpose is  
16 instruction in the martial arts, boxing, or kickboxing, if the  
17 match held in conjunction with the instruction is limited to  
18 amateur participants who are students of the school or  
19 instructional program; or

20 (2) A match conducted or sponsored by any company or  
21 detachment of the Florida National Guard, if the match is  
22 limited to participants who are members of the company or  
23 detachment of the Florida National Guard.

24 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 548.056, Florida  
25 Statutes, is amended to read:

26 548.056 Prohibited financial interests in participant;  
27 penalties.--

28 (1) A member of the commission; an employee of the  
29 commission; a referee ~~or~~, judge, ~~or promoter~~ licensed by the  
30 commission; or an attending physician may not have any direct  
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1 or indirect financial or pecuniary interest in any  
2 participant.

3 Section 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
4 law.

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6 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
8 Senate Bill 538

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9 The committee substitute amends s. 548.003(2)(k), F.S., to  
10 allow the boxing commission to adopt by rule the health and  
11 safety standards of USA Boxing and the International Sport  
12 Kickboxing Association. The committee substitute deletes s.  
13 548.0065(2), F.S., which required that the commission health  
14 and safety standards for boxing and kickboxing must not be  
15 less stringent than the health and safety standards of USA  
16 Boxing and the International Sport Kickboxing Association. It  
17 amends s. 548.0065(5), F.S., to authorize any member of the  
18 commission or commission representative to immediately stop a  
19 boxing or kickboxing contest if the match appears to violate  
20 the health and safety standards required by rule, to authorize  
21 law enforcement personnel to assist to enforce the order to  
22 stop the contest, and to provide procedures for suspending the  
23 approval of a sanctioning organization. It amends s. 548.07,  
24 F.S., to exempt certain matches conducted or sponsored by a  
25 bona fide nonprofit school or education program, and matches  
26 conducted by any company or detachment of the Florida National  
27 Guard. It amends s. 548.56, F.S., to delete promoters from  
28 the list of persons restricted from having a financial  
29 interest in a match participant.

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