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By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Galvano

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to pugilistic exhibitions; amending s. 548.002, F.S.; revising definitions; amending s. 548.004, F.S.; revising the duties and responsibilities of the executive director of the Florida State Boxing Commission; deleting a provision requiring the electronic recording of commission proceedings; amending s. 548.006, F.S.; clarifying the commission's exclusive jurisdiction over approval of amateur and professional boxing, kickboxing, and mixed martial arts matches; amending s. 548.007, F.S.; revising applicability of ch. 548, F.S.; repealing s. 548.013, F.S.; relating to foreign copromoter license requirement; amending s. 548.014, F.S.; deleting references to foreign copromoters; repealing s. 548.015, F.S., relating to the authority of the commission to require a concessionaire to file a form of security with the commission; amending s. 548.017, F.S.; deleting a requirement for the licensure of concessionaires; amending s. 548.046, F.S.; providing for immediate license suspension and other disciplinary action if a participant fails or refuses to provide a urine sample or tests positive for specified prohibited substances; amending s. 548.052, F.S.; deleting a reference to foreign copromoters; amending s. 548.054, F.S.; revising procedures and requirements for requesting a hearing following the withholding of a purse; amending s. 548.06, F.S.; specifying a circumstance under which a report is not

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required to be filed with the commission; revising the calculation of gross receipts that are required to be filed in a report to the commission; requiring promoters to retain specified documents and records; authorizing the commission and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to audit specified records retained by a promoter; requiring the commission to adopt rules; amending s. 548.07, F.S.; revising the procedure for suspension of licensure; amending s. 548.073, F.S.; requiring that commission hearings be held in accordance with ch. 120, F.S.; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 548.002, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.002 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

- (1) "Amateur" means a person who has never received nor competed for any purse or other article of value, either for the expenses of training or for participating in a match, other than a prize of \$50 or less in value or less.
- (2) "Amateur sanctioning organization" means \underline{a} any business entity organized for sanctioning and supervising matches involving amateurs.
- (3) "Boxing" means the unarmed combat sport of fighting by striking with fists to compete with the fists.
 - (4) "Commission" means the Florida State Boxing Commission.

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(5) "Concessionaire" means any person or business entity not licensed as a promoter which receives revenues or other compensation from the sale of tickets or from the sale of souvenirs, programs, broadcast rights, or any other concessions in conjunction with the promotion of a match.

- (5) (6) "Contest" means a boxing, kickboxing, or mixed martial arts engagement in which persons participating strive earnestly to win using, but not necessarily being limited to, strikes and blows to the head or other full-contact maneuvers.
- $\underline{\text{(6)}}$ "Department" means the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
 - (7) (8) "Event" means one or more matches comprising a show.
- (8) "Exhibition" means a boxing, kickboxing, or mixed martial arts engagement in which persons participating show or display their skill without necessarily striving to win using but not necessarily being limited to, strikes and blows to the head or other full-contact maneuvers.
- (9) "Face value" means the dollar value of a ticket equal to the dollar amount that a customer is required to pay or, for complimentary tickets, would have been required to pay to purchase a ticket with equivalent seating priority in order to view the event. If the ticket specifies the amount of admission charges attributable to state or federal taxes, such taxes are not included in the face value.
- (10) "Full contact" means the use of strikes and blows during a match which:
- (a) Are intended to break the plane of the receiving participant or amateur's body;
 - (b) Are delivered to the head, face, neck, or body of the

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receiving participant or amateur; and

- (c) Cause the receiving participant or amateur to move in response to the strike or blow.
- (10) "Foreign copromoter" means a promoter who has no place of business within this state.
- (11) "Judge" means a person <u>licensed by the commission who</u> evaluates and scores a match using a designated scoring system who has a vote in determining the winner of any contest.
- (12) "Kickboxing" means the unarmed combat sport of fighting by striking to compete with the fists, hands, feet, legs, or any combination thereof, and includes "punchkick" and other similar competitions. The term does not include any form of ground fighting techniques.
- (13) "Manager" means \underline{a} any person who, directly or indirectly, controls or administers the boxing, kickboxing, or mixed martial arts affairs of a any participant.
 - (14) "Match" means a any contest or exhibition.
- (15) "Matchmaker" means a person who brings together professionals or arranges matches for professionals.
- (16) "Mixed martial arts" means the unarmed combat sport involving the use, subject to any applicable limitations set forth in this chapter, of a combination of techniques, including, but not limited to, grappling, kicking, striking, and using techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts, including, but not limited to, boxing, kickboxing, Muay Thai, jujitsu, and wrestling grappling, kicking, and striking.
- (17) "Participant" means a professional competing in a boxing, kickboxing, or mixed martial arts match.
 - (18) "Physician" means a person who is approved by the

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commission, who is an individual licensed to practice medicine under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and whose license is unencumbered and in good standing to practice medicine and surgery in this state.

- (19) "Professional" means a person who has received or competed for \underline{a} any purse or other article of a value greater than \$50, either for the expenses of training or for participating in a \underline{any} match.
- (20) "Promoter" means <u>a any person or entity</u>, <u>including an and includes any</u> officer, director, <u>trustee</u>, <u>partner employee</u>, or <u>owner stockholder</u> of a corporate promoter <u>or promoter partnership</u>, who produces, arranges, or stages <u>a any</u> match involving a professional.
- (21) "Purse" means the financial guarantee or other remuneration for which a professional is participating in a match and includes the professional's share of any payment received for radio broadcasting and, television, including payper-view or closed circuit and motion picture rights.
- (22) "Second" or "cornerman" means a person who assists \underline{a} the match participant in preparing for a match and between rounds, and who maintains the corner of \underline{a} the participant during a the match.
- (23) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Business and Professional Regulation.
- (24) "Unarmed combat" means a form of competition in which a strike or blow is struck which may reasonably be expected to inflict injury.
- Section 2. Section 548.004, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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548.004 Executive director; duties, compensation, administrative support.—

- (1) The department shall employ an executive director with the approval of the commission. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary. The executive director or his or her designee shall perform the duties specified by the commission, including conducting the functions of the commission office; appointing event and commission officials; approving licenses, permits, and matches; and performing any 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 department or commission deems necessary to fulfill the duties of the position directs. The executive director may issue subpoenas and administer oaths to witnesses, permitholders, record custodians, and licensees.
- (2) The commission shall require electronic recording of all scheduled proceedings of the commission.
- (2)(3) The department shall provide assistance in budget development and budget submission for state funding requests. The department shall submit an annual balanced legislative budget for the commission which is based upon anticipated revenue. The department shall provide technical assistance and administrative support, if requested or determined necessary needed, to the commission and its executive director on issues relating to personnel, contracting, property management, or

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other issues identified as important to performing the duties of this chapter and to protecting the interests of the state.

Section 3. Section 548.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.006 Power of commission to control professional and amateur boxing, kickboxing, and mixed martial arts matches pugilistic contests and exhibitions; certification of competitiveness of professional mixed martial arts and kickboxing matches.—

- (1) The commission has exclusive jurisdiction over every boxing, kickboxing, and mixed martial arts match held within the state which involves a professional.
- (2) As to professional mixed martial arts and kickboxing, until a central repository of match records for each exists and is approved by the commission, the matchmaker shall certify as to the competitiveness of each match.
- (3) The commission has exclusive jurisdiction over approval, disapproval, suspension of approval, and revocation of approval of all amateur sanctioning organizations for amateur boxing, and kickboxing, and mixed martial arts matches held in this state.
- (4) Professional and amateur matches shall be held in accordance with this chapter and the rules adopted by the commission.

Section 4. Section 548.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.007 Exemptions.—This chapter does Applicability of provisions to amateur matches and certain other matches or events.—Sections 548.001-548.079 do not apply to any of the

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following:

(1) A match that does not allow full contact conducted or sponsored by a bona fide nonprofit school or education program whose primary purpose is instruction in the martial arts, boxing, or kickboxing, if the match held in conjunction with the instruction is limited to amateur participants. who are students of the school or instructional program;

- (2) A match conducted or sponsored by <u>a</u> any company or detachment of the Florida National Guard <u>or the United States</u>

 <u>Armed Forces</u>, if the match is limited to <u>amateurs</u> <u>participants</u>
 who are members of <u>a</u> the company or detachment of the Florida
 National Guard or United States Armed Forces.; or
- (3) A match conducted or sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police, if the match is limited to <u>amateurs</u> amateur participants and is held in conjunction with a charitable event.
- (4) A match conducted by or between public postsecondary educational institutions or public K-12 schools, as defined in s. 1000.04, if the match is limited to amateurs who are members of a school-sponsored club or team.
- (5) A match conducted by the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the Special Olympics, or the Junior Olympics, if the match is limited to amateurs who are competing in or attempting to qualify for the Olympics, Paralympics, Special Olympics, or Junior Olympics.
- (6) A professional or amateur martial arts activity. As used in this subsection, the term "martial arts" means one of the traditional forms of self-defense or unarmed combat involving the use of physical skill and coordination, including, but not limited to, karate, aikido, judo, and kung fu. The term

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does not include mixed martial arts.

Section 5. <u>Section 548.013, Florida Statutes, is repealed.</u>
Section 6. Subsections (1) and (2) 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, as the commission determines.
- (b) All bonds must be upon forms approved and supplied by the commission.
- (c) The sufficiency of any surety is subject to approval of the commission.
- (d) The surety bond must be conditioned upon the faithful performance by the promoter or foreign copromoter of her or his obligations under this chapter and upon the fulfillment of her or his contracts with any other licensees under this chapter. However, the aggregate annual liability of the surety for all obligations and fees may not exceed the amount of the bond.
- (2) In lieu of a surety bond, the promoter or foreign copromoter may deposit with the commission cash or a certified check, in an equivalent amount and subject to the same conditions as the bond. Such security may not be returned to the promoter until 1 year after the date on which it was deposited with the 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 after the date it was

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Section 7. <u>Section 548.015, Florida Statutes, is repealed.</u>
Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 548.017, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

548.017 Participants, managers, and other persons required to have licenses.—

(1) A participant, manager, trainer, second, timekeeper, referee, judge, announcer, physician, matchmaker, concessionaire, or promoter must booking agent or representative of a booking agent shall be licensed before directly or indirectly acting in such capacity in connection with any match involving a participant. A physician approved by the commission must be licensed pursuant to chapter 458 or chapter 459, must maintain an unencumbered license in good standing, and must demonstrate satisfactory medical training or experience in boxing, or a combination of both, to the executive director before prior to working as the ringside physician.

Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 548.046, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to read:

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

(3)

(c) A participant who fails or refuses Failure or refusal to provide a urine sample immediately upon request shall be considered an immediate, serious danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public and his or her opponent. If a participant fails or refuses to provide a urine sample, his or her license shall be immediately suspended pursuant to

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s.120.60(6), and such failure or refusal is grounds for additional disciplinary action result in the revocation of the participant's license. Any participant who has been adjudged the loser of a match and who subsequently refuses to or is unable to provide a urine sample shall forfeit his or her share of the purse to the commission. A Any participant who is adjudged the winner of a match and who subsequently refuses to or is unable to provide a urine sample forfeits shall forfeit the win and shall not be allowed to engage in any future match in the state. The decision shall be changed to a no-decision result and shall be entered into the official record as the result of the match. The purse shall be redistributed as though the participant found to be in violation of this subsection had lost the match. If redistribution of the purse is not necessary or after redistribution of the purse is completed, the participant found to be in violation of this subsection shall forfeit his or her share of the purse to the commission.

(d) If a participant tests positive for a prohibited substance as specified by commission rule, the participant shall be considered an immediate, serious danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public and his or her opponent. The participant's license shall be immediately suspended pursuant to s. 120.60(6), and subject to additional disciplinary action.

Section 10. Section 548.052, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.052 Payment of advances by promoter or foreign copromoter regulated.—A promoter or foreign copromoter may not pay, lend, or give a participant an advance against her or his purse before a contest, except with the prior written permission

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of the commission or the executive director, or his or her designee a commissioner; and, if permitted, such advance may be made only for expenses for transportation and maintenance in preparation for a contest.

Section 11. Subsection (2) of section 548.054, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(2) Any purse so withheld shall be delivered by the promoter to the commission upon demand. Within 10 days after the match, the person from whom the sum was withheld may submit a petition for a hearing to the commission pursuant to s. 120.569 apply in writing to the commission for a hearing. Upon receipt of the petition application, the commission shall hold shall fix a date for a hearing pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57. Within 10 days after the hearing or after 10 days following the match, If no petition application for a hearing is filed, the commission shall meet and determine the disposition to be made of the withheld purse. If the commission finds the charges sufficient, it may declare all or any part of the funds forfeited. If the commission finds the charges insufficient not sufficient upon which to base a withholding order, it shall immediately distribute the withheld funds to the appropriate persons entitled thereto.

Section 12. Section 548.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.06 Payments to state; exemptions; audit of records.-

(1) Except as provided in subsection (4), a promoter holding a match shall, within 72 hours after the match, file

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with the commission a written report <u>that</u> which includes the number of tickets sold, the amount of gross receipts, and any other facts the commission may require. For the purposes of this chapter, <u>total</u> gross receipts include each of the following:

- (a) The gross price charged for the sale or lease of broadcasting, television, and <u>pay-per-view</u> motion picture rights of any match occurring within the state without any deductions for commissions, brokerage fees, distribution fees, advertising, or other expenses or charges.;
- (b) The portion of the receipts from the sale of souvenirs, programs, and other concessions received by the promoter;
- (b) (c) The face value of all tickets sold and complimentary tickets issued, provided, or given above 5 percent of the seats in the house designated for use in the event and not authorized by the commission pursuant to subsection (2).; and
- $\underline{\text{(c)}}$ (d) The face value of any seat or seating issued, provided, or given in exchange for advertising, sponsorships, or anything of value to the promotion of an event.
- tickets for up to 5 percent of the seats in the house designated for use in the event, equally distributed between or among the price categories for which complimentary tickets are issued, without including the face value of such tickets issued, provided, or given, in gross receipts, and without paying the taxes required in subsection (4). If a promoter wishes to issue, provide, or give complimentary tickets for more than 5 percent of the seats in the house designated for use in the event without including the face value of such tickets issued, provided, or given, in gross receipts, the promoter must obtain

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written authorization from the commission or the executive director, or his or her designee Where the rights to telecast a match or matches held in this state under the supervision of the Florida State Boxing Commission are in whole owned by, sold to, acquired by, or held by any person who intends to or subsequently sells or, in some other manner, extends such rights in part to another, such person is deemed to be a promoter and must be licensed as such in this state. Such person shall, within 72 hours after the sale, transfer, or extension of such rights in whole or in part, file with the commission a written report that includes the number of tickets sold, the amount of gross receipts, and any other facts the commission may require.

- (a) The commission may not consider complimentary tickets that it authorizes under this subsection as part of the total gross receipts from admission fees.
- (b) A promoter may issue, provide, or give complimentary tickets for more than 5 percent of the seats in the house designated for use in the event without obtaining written authorization from the commission, the executive director, or his or her designee if the promoter includes the face value of such tickets issued, provided, or given over 5 percent of the seats in the house designated for use in the event in gross receipts and pays the taxes as required in subsection (4).
- (c) The commission, the executive director, or his or her designee, may authorize more than 5 percent of the tickets to be issued as complimentary tickets to the following:
- 1. Reserve or active members of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard;
 - 2. A veteran, as defined in s. 1.01(14). The veteran need

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not have served during wartime periods of service as listed under s. 1.01(14) or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized; and

- 3. Not-for-profit organizations with tax-exempt status pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.
- (d) A promoter who wishes to obtain authorization to issue more than 5 percent complimentary tickets shall:
- 1. Submit an application adopted by the commission no later than 2 business days before the date of the professional event.

 The application must include, at a minimum, the date, time, and location of the event, the number of complimentary tickets being requested, the percentage of total tickets issued for the seats in the house designated for use in the event being requested as complimentary tickets, and which individuals or entities will receive the complimentary tickets.
- 2. Maintain documentation evidencing that the tickets were given to individuals or entities that fall into the categories listed in paragraph (c). These documents are subject to auditing requirements as set forth in subsection (7).
- (e) The commission, executive director, or his or her designee shall deny or approve the application. The commission, executive director, or his or her designee may set limitations on the approval and may approve all or a portion of the requested percentage above 5 percent. The commission, executive director, or his or her designee shall provide the decision in writing to the promoter at least 1 business day before the start of the event, with an explanation for the denial or approval and an explanation for any limitation on the approval. The promoter

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remains responsible for complying with other reporting and taxation requirements as set forth in this chapter.

- (3) A concessionaire shall, within 72 hours after the match, file with the commission a written report that includes the number of tickets sold, the amount of gross receipts, and any other facts the commission may require.
- $\underline{(3)}$ (4) \underline{A} Any written report required to be filed with the commission under this section $\underline{\text{must}}$ shall be postmarked within 72 hours after the conclusion of the match, and an additional 5 days is shall be allowed for mailing.
- (4) (5) Each the written report <u>must</u> shall be accompanied by a tax payment in the amount of 5 percent of the total gross receipts exclusive of any federal taxes, except that the tax payment derived from the gross price charged for the sale or lease of broadcasting, television, and <u>pay-per-view motion</u> picture rights of any match occurring within the state may shall not exceed \$40,000 for a any single event. If a promoter remits the maximum tax amount of \$40,000 for the sale or lease of broadcasting, television, or pay-per-view rights of any single event pursuant to this subsection, the promoter is only required to indicate that the amount of \$40,000 has been remitted for such taxes on a form provided by the commission. The promoter remains responsible for complying with other reporting and taxation requirements related to other gross receipts as set forth in this chapter.
- $\underline{(5)}$ (a) \underline{A} Any promoter who willfully makes a false and fraudulent report under this section $\underline{\text{commits}}$ is guilty of perjury and, upon conviction, is subject to punishment as provided by law. Such penalty is $\underline{\text{shall be}}$ in addition to any

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other penalties imposed under by this chapter.

- (b) A Any promoter who willfully fails, neglects, or refuses to make a report or to pay the taxes as prescribed or who refuses to allow the commission to examine the books, papers, and records of a any promotion commits is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (6) A promoter shall retain a copy of the following records for 1 year and provide a copy of the following records to the commission upon request:
- (a) Records necessary to support each report submitted to the commission, including a copy of any report filed with the commission.
 - (b) A copy of each independently prepared ticket manifest.
- (c) Documentation verifying the issuance of complimentary tickets approved by the commission pursuant to subsection (2) to individuals or entities which meet the requirements as set forth in paragraph (2)(c).
- (7) Compliance with this section is subject to verification by department or commission audit. The commission may, upon reasonable notice to the promoter, audit a promoter's books and records relating to the promoter's operations under this chapter.
- (8) The commission shall adopt rules establishing a procedure for auditing a promoter's records and resolving any inconsistencies revealed by an audit and shall adopt a rule imposing a late fee in the event of taxes owed.
- Section 13. Section 548.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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548.07 Suspension of license or permit by commissioner; hearing.—

- (1) The commission or the executive director, or his or her designee, may issue an emergency suspension order pursuant to s. 120.60(6), suspending the license of any person or entity licensed under this chapter who poses an immediate, serious danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public or the participants in a match.
- (2) The department's Office of General Counsel shall review the grounds for each emergency suspension order issued and, if sufficient, shall file an administrative complaint against the licensee within 21 days after the issuance of the emergency suspension order.
- (3) After service of the administrative complaint pursuant to the procedure of s. 455.275, the disciplinary process shall proceed pursuant to chapter 120. Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120, any member of the commission may, upon her or his own motion or upon the verified written complaint of any person charging a licensee or permittee with violating this chapter, suspend any license or permit until final determination by the commission if such action is necessary to protect the public welfare and the best interests of the sport. The commission shall hold a hearing within 10 days after the date on which the license or permit is suspended.

Section 14. Section 548.073, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

548.073 Commission hearings.—All hearings held under this chapter shall be held in accordance with chapter 120.

Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 120, any member of the

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commission may conduct a hearing. Before any adjudication is rendered, a majority of the members of the commission shall examine the record and approve the adjudication and order.

Section 15. The sum of \$111,000 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for the implementation of

this act by the Florida State Boxing Commission during the 2014-

Section 16. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.