S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

3439

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 27, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. CROUCH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Sports Development

AN ACT to amend chapter 912 of the laws of 1920 relating to the regulation of boxing, sparring, and wrestling, in relation to mixed martial arts events

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of section 5-a of chapter 912 of the laws of 1920 relating to the regulation of boxing, sparring, and wrestling, as added by chapter 14 of the laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

A "combative sport" shall mean any professional match or exhibition other than boxing, sparring, wrestling or martial arts wherein the contestants deliver, or are not forbidden by the applicable rules thereof from delivering kicks, punches or blows of any kind to the body of an opponent or opponents. HOWEVER, "MIXED MARTIAL ARTS" SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF COMBATIVE SPORT. "MIXED MARTIAL ARTS" SHALL MEAN THE UTILIZATION OF PERMITTED MARTIAL ARTS TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING STRIKING AND GRAPPLING. For the purposes of this section, the term "martial arts" shall include any professional match or exhibition sanctioned by any of the following organizations: U.S. Judo Association, U.S. Judo, Inc., U.S. Judo Federation, U.S. Tae Kwon Do Union, North American Sport Karate Association, U.S.A. Karate Foundation, U.S. Karate, Inc., World Karate Association, Professional Karate Association, Karate International, International Kenpo Association, or World Wide Kenpo Association. The commission is authorized to promulgate regulations which would establish a process to allow for the inclusion or removal of martial arts organizations from the above list. Such process shall include but not be limited to consideration of the following factors:

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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S 2. Subdivision 3 of section 5-a of chapter 912 of the laws of 1920 relating to the regulation of boxing, sparring, and wrestling is renumbered subdivision 4 and a new subdivision 3 is added to read as follows:

3. THE COMMISSION SHALL ALLOW FOR MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COMPETITIONS TO BE CONDUCTED, HELD, OR GIVEN WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND SHALL ALLOW FOR LICENSES TO BE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SUCH MATCHES OR EXHIBITIONS. THE COMMISSION IS AUTHORIZED TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION. SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, A MORE DETAILED DEFINITION OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, THE ADOPTION OF UNIFIED RULES OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, A LICENSING PROCESS FOR MATCHES AND EXHIBITIONS, A FEE SCHEDULE FOR SUCH LICENSES, AND PROCEDURES TO ALLOW FOR THE PARTICIPATION, PROMOTION, AND ADVANCEMENT OF SUCH EVENTS.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.