STATE OF NEW YORK

8437

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

June 11, 2025

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to lowering the financial burden of professional wrestling promoters; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 1000 of the general business law, as added by chapter 32 of the laws of 2016, is amended and two new subdivisions 7 and 8 are added to read as follows:

3. "Combative sport" means any unarmed bout, contest, competition, match, or exhibition undertaken to entertain an audience, wherein the participants primarily grapple [~~or wrestle~~], or deliver blows of any kind to, or use force in any way to manipulate, the body of another participant, and wherein the outcome and score depend entirely on such activities.

7. "Professional wrestling" means a performance of sports entertainment in which two or more participants perform in mock or theatrical unarmed, hand-to-hand combat for the purpose of entertainment, do not intentionally cause bodily harm to themselves or other participants, and the outcome of such exhibition is predetermined or the participants do not necessarily strive to win. This definition shall not include any wrestling contest or exhibition where the contestants are all amateurs and such events are sponsored by and under the supervision of any university, college, school, or other institution of learning, recognized by the regents of the state of New York.

8. "Wrestling exhibition", "wrestling contest", or "wrestling event" means any demonstration of professional wrestling that is presented to the public.

§ 2. Section 1001 of the general business law, as added by chapter 32 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

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

LBD13325-02-5

§ 1001. Combative sports authorized. Combative sports conducted under the supervision of the commission, under the supervision of an authorized sanctioning entity, or as provided for in section one thousand twenty-one of this article, are hereby authorized. Authorized combative sports include, amateur and professional boxing, **amateur and professional** wrestling, sparring, kick boxing, single discipline martial arts and mixed martial arts, pursuant to the provisions of this article.

§ 3. Subdivision 10 of section 1015 of the general business law, as added by chapter 32 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

10. In addition to the bond required by subdivision nine of this section, each applicant for a license to conduct an authorized professional combative sport shall execute and file with the secretary of state a bond in an amount to be determined by the commission to be approved as to form and sufficiency of sureties thereon by the secretary of state, conditioned for and guaranteeing the payment of professionals' [~~and professional wrestlers'~~] purses, salaries of club employees licensed by the commission, and the legitimate expenses of printing tickets and all advertising material.

§ 4. Subdivision 11 of section 1015 of the general business law is REPEALED.

§ 5. Section 1017 of the general business law, as added by chapter 32 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as follows:

§ 1017. Professional wrestling; promoters. 1. [~~For the purposes of this article, "professional wrestling" shall mean an activity in which participants struggle hand-in-hand primarily for the purpose of providing entertainment to spectators and which does not comprise a bona fide athletic contest or competition.~~] **A professional wrestling event may not be held in this state except under a license issued in accordance with this article and the rules of the commission, unless such event is exempt from licensure.**

2. Every person, partnership or corporation promoting one or more professional wrestling exhibitions in this state shall be required to obtain from the commission an annual license to conduct such exhibitions subject to terms and conditions promulgated by the commission pursuant to rule and consistent with the applicable provisions of this article. Each applicant shall pay an annual fee established by the commission pursuant to rule**, provided, however, that such fee shall not exceed two hundred twenty-five dollars**.

3. A licensed promoter of a professional wrestling exhibition in the state shall notify the athletic commission at least ten days in advance of the holding of the exhibition. [~~Each such promoter shall execute and file with the comptroller a bond in an amount not less than twenty thousand dollars to be approved as to form and sufficiency of sureties thereon by the comptroller, conditioned for and guaranteeing the payment of professional wrestler's purses, salaries of club employees licensed by the commission, the legitimate expenses of printing tickets and all advertising material, payments to sponsoring organizations, and the applicable state and local sales and compensating use tax.~~]

4. A licensed promoter of a professional wrestling exhibition shall provide for a [~~licensed physician~~] **registered nurse or other medical professional** to be present at each exhibition, and such [~~physician~~] **medical professional** shall examine each wrestler prior to each performance, and each such pre-performance examination shall be conducted in accordance with regulations prescribed by the commission.

5. Every licensed promoter of professional wrestling who promotes six or more exhibitions in the state in a calendar year must have in place

an anti-drug plan and file with the commission a written copy of the plan. Each such plan shall address the use of a controlled substance defined in article thirty-three of the public health law, and such plan shall at minimum provide for the following:

(a) dissemination of educational materials to professional wrestlers who perform for any such promoter including a list of prohibited drugs and available rehabilitation services; and

(b) a referral procedure to permit any such professional wrestler to obtain rehabilitation services.

§ 6. The state athletic commission shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

§ 7. This act shall take effect immediately.