

Senate Bill 78

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Orrock of the 36th, Hooks of the 14th, James of the 35th, Sims of the 12th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4B of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission, so as to revise certain definitions; to clarify  
3 the application of the chapter; to require certain safety standards; to include the Georgia  
4 Boxing Association as a recognized governing body for amateur boxing, wrestling, and  
5 martial arts; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting  
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 SECTION 1.

9 Chapter 4B of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia  
10 Athletic and Entertainment Commission, is amended by revising paragraphs (1), (14), (15),  
11 (16), and (20) of Code Section 43-4B-1, relating to definitions, as follows:

12 "(1) 'Amateur,' when applied to a person engaged in boxing, wrestling, ~~or a martial art,~~  
13 or mixed martial arts, means a person who receives no compensation or prize.  
14 Compensation or prize shall not include a reasonable trophy or belt. ~~and engages in a~~  
15 ~~match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, wrestling, or a martial art that is governed or~~  
16 ~~authorized by:~~

- 17 ~~(1)(A) U.S.A. Boxing;~~
- 18 ~~(B) The Georgia High School Athletic Association;~~
- 19 ~~(C) The National Collegiate Athletic Association;~~
- 20 ~~(D) Amateur Athletic Union;~~
- 21 ~~(E) Golden Gloves;~~
- 22 ~~(F) Team Georgia Amateur Wrestling;~~
- 23 ~~(G) USA Wrestling;~~
- 24 ~~(H) National High School Coaches Association;~~
- 25 ~~(I) North American Sport Karate Association;~~
- 26 ~~(J) International Sport Kick Boxing/Karate Association;~~

- 27 ~~(K) World Kick Boxing Association;~~  
 28 ~~(L) United States Kick Boxing Association;~~  
 29 ~~(M) International Sport Combat Federation;~~  
 30 ~~(N) Professional Karate Commission;~~  
 31 ~~(O) International Kick Boxing Federation; or~~  
 32 ~~(P) The local affiliate of any organization listed in this paragraph."~~

33 "(14) 'Professional' means a person who is participating or has participated in a match,  
 34 contest, or exhibition ~~which is not governed or authorized by one or more of the~~  
 35 ~~organizations listed in paragraph (1) of this Code section and:~~

- 36 ~~(A) Has who has received or competed for or is receiving or competing for any cash~~  
 37 ~~as a salary, purse, or prize for participating in any match, contest, or exhibition;~~  
 38 ~~(B) Is participating or has participated in any match, contest, or exhibition to which~~  
 39 ~~admission is granted upon payment of any ticket for admission or other evidence of the~~  
 40 ~~right of entry;~~  
 41 ~~(C) Is participating or has participated in any match, contest, or exhibition which is or~~  
 42 ~~was filmed, broadcast, or transmitted for viewing; or~~  
 43 ~~(D) Is participating or has participated in any match, contest, or exhibition which~~  
 44 ~~provides a commercial advantage by attracting persons to a particular place or~~  
 45 ~~promoting a commercial product or enterprise.~~

46 (15) 'Professional match, contest, or exhibition' means a match, contest, or exhibition  
 47 ~~which is not governed or authorized by one or more of the organizations listed in~~  
 48 ~~paragraph (1) of this Code section and:~~

- 49 (A) Rewards a participant with cash as a salary, purse, or prize for such participation;  
 50 (B) Requires for admission payment of a ticket for admission or other evidence of the  
 51 right of entry;  
 52 (C) Is filmed, broadcast, or transmitted for viewing; or  
 53 (D) Provides a commercial advantage by attracting persons to a particular place or  
 54 promoting a commercial product or enterprise.

55 (16) 'Promoter' means the person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and  
 56 producing a ~~professional~~ match, contest, or exhibition and who is legally responsible for  
 57 the lawful conduct of such ~~professional~~ match, contest, or exhibition."

58 "(20)(A) 'Unarmed combat' means any form of competition between human beings or  
 59 one or more human beings and one or more animals in which:

- 60 (i) One or more blows are struck which may reasonably be expected to inflict injury  
 61 on a human being; and  
 62 (ii) There is some compensation or commercial benefit arising from such  
 63 competition, whether in the form of cash or noncash payment to the competitors or

64 the person arranging the competition; the sale of the right to film, broadcast, transmit,  
 65 or view the competition; or the use of the competition to attract persons to a particular  
 66 location for some commercial advantage or to promote a commercial product or  
 67 commercial enterprise.

68 Such term also means any amateur kickboxing match in which the competitors are not  
 69 wearing protective gear.

70 (B) Unarmed combat shall include but shall not be limited to: tough man fights, bad  
 71 man fights, nude boxing, nude wrestling, patron boxing, patron martial arts, and patron  
 72 wrestling.

73 (C) Unarmed combat shall not include:

74 (i) Professional boxing licensed in accordance with this chapter;

75 (ii) Professional wrestling governed or authorized by an organization licensed or  
 76 exempted from licensure in accordance with this chapter;

77 (iii) Amateur boxing governed or authorized by an organization ~~listed in paragraph~~  
 78 ~~(1) of this Code section~~ exempted in Code Section 43-4B-2;

79 (iv) Amateur wrestling governed or authorized by an organization ~~listed in paragraph~~  
 80 ~~(1) of this Code section~~ exempted in Code Section 43-4B-2;

81 (v) Any competition displaying the skills of a single form of an Oriental system of  
 82 unarmed combative sports or unarmed combative entertainment, including, but not  
 83 limited to, kickboxing, karate, or full-contact karate, that is held pursuant to the rules  
 84 of that form and governed or authorized by an organization licensed by the  
 85 commission in accordance with Article 4 of this chapter or exempted in Code Section  
 86 43-4B-2;

87 (vi) Shidokan when the competition is governed or authorized by an organization  
 88 licensed by the commission in accordance with Article 4 of this chapter or exempted  
 89 in Code Section 43-4B-2;

90 (vii) Mixed martial arts fighting when the competition is governed or authorized by  
 91 an organization licensed by the commission in accordance with Article 4 of this  
 92 chapter or exempted in Code Section 43-4B-2; or

93 (viii) Other martial arts competitions, when governed or authorized by an  
 94 organization licensed by the commission in accordance with Article 4 of this chapter  
 95 or exempted in Code Section 43-4B-2."

96 **SECTION 2.**

97 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 43-4B-2, relating  
 98 to application of chapter, as follows:

99 "(a) ~~The~~ Subject to the provisions of Code Section 43-4B-53, the provisions of this chapter  
 100 shall not be construed to apply to any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, kickboxing,  
 101 or a martial art, excluding mixed martial arts, that meets minimum safety standards,  
 102 including, but not limited to, negative test results for hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV and  
 103 any other safety requirements as promulgated by commission rule or regulation:

- 104 (1) In which the contestants are all amateurs; and  
 105 (2) Which is governed or authorized by:
- 106 (A) U.S.A. Boxing;
  - 107 (B) The Georgia High School Athletic Association;
  - 108 (C) The National Collegiate Athletic Association;
  - 109 (D) Amateur Athletic Union;
  - 110 (E) Golden Gloves;
  - 111 (F) Team Georgia Amateur Wrestling;
  - 112 (G) USA Wrestling;
  - 113 (H) National High School Coaches Association;
  - 114 (I) North American Sport Karate Association;
  - 115 (J) International Sport Kick Boxing/Karate Association;
  - 116 (K) World Kick Boxing Association;
  - 117 (L) United States Kick Boxing Association;
  - 118 (M) International Sport Combat Federation;
  - 119 (N) Professional Karate Commission;
  - 120 (O) International Kick Boxing Federation; ~~or~~
  - 121 (P) Georgia Boxing Association; or
  - 122 ~~(P)(Q)~~ The local affiliate of any organization listed in this paragraph."

123 **SECTION 3.**

124 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
 125 without such approval.

126 **SECTION 4.**

127 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.