

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4167

To provide for the safety of journeymen boxers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

Mr. WILLIAMS (for himself, Mr. OXLEY, and Mr. MANTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities and in addition to the Committee on Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide for the safety of journeymen boxers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Professional Boxing  
5 Safety Act of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For purposes of this Act:

8 (1) **BOXER.**—The term “boxer” means an indi-  
9 vidual who fights in a professional boxing match.

1           (2) BOXING COMMISSION.—(A) The term “box-  
2           ing commission” means an entity authorized under  
3           State law to regulate professional boxing matches.

4           (3) BOXER REGISTRY.—The term “boxer reg-  
5           istry” means any entity certified by the Association  
6           of Boxing Commissions for the purposes of main-  
7           taining records and identification of boxers.

8           (4) LICENSEE.—The term “licensee” means an  
9           individual who serves as a trainer, second, or cut  
10          man for a boxer.

11          (5) MANAGER.—The term “manager” means a  
12          person who receives compensation for service as an  
13          agent or representative of a boxer.

14          (6) MATCHMAKER.—The term “matchmaker”  
15          means a person that proposes, selects, and arranges  
16          the boxers to participate in a professional boxing  
17          match.

18          (7) PHYSICIAN.—The term “physician” means  
19          a doctor of medicine legally authorized to practice  
20          medicine by the State in which the physician per-  
21          forms such function or action.

22          (8) PROFESSIONAL BOXING MATCH.—The term  
23          “professional boxing match” means a boxing contest  
24          held in the United States between individuals for fi-  
25          nancial compensation. Such term does not include a

1 boxing contest that is regulated by an amateur  
2 sports organization.

3 (9) PROMOTER.—The term “promoter” means  
4 the person primarily responsible for organizing, pro-  
5 moting, and producing a professional boxing match.

6 (10) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
7 the 50 States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia,  
8 and any territory or possession of the United States.

9 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

10 The purposes of this Act are—

11 (1) to improve and expand the system of safety  
12 precautions that protects the welfare of professional  
13 boxers; and

14 (2) to assist State boxing commissions to pro-  
15 vide proper oversight for the professional boxing in-  
16 dustry in the United States.

17 **SEC. 4. BOXING MATCHES IN STATES WITHOUT BOXING**  
18 **COMMISSIONS.**

19 No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce,  
20 or fight in a professional boxing match held in a State  
21 that does not have a boxing commission unless the match  
22 is supervised by a boxing commission from another State  
23 and subject to the most recent version of the recommended  
24 regulatory guidelines certified and published by the Asso-  
25 ciation of Boxing Commissions as well as any additional

1 relevant professional boxing regulations and requirements  
2 of such other State.

3 **SEC. 5. SAFETY STANDARDS.**

4 No person may arrange, promote, organize, produce,  
5 or fight in a professional boxing match without meeting  
6 each of the following requirements or an alternative re-  
7 quirement in effect under regulations of a boxing commis-  
8 sion that provides equivalent protection of the health and  
9 safety of boxers:

10 (1) A physical examination of each boxer by a  
11 physician certifying whether or not the boxer is  
12 physically fit to safely compete, copies of which must  
13 be provided to the boxing commission.

14 (2) Except as otherwise expressly provided  
15 under regulation of a boxing commission promul-  
16 gated subsequent to the enactment of this Act, an  
17 ambulance or medical personnel with appropriate re-  
18 suscitation equipment continuously present on site.

19 (3) A physician continuously present at ring-  
20 side.

21 (4) Health insurance for each boxer to provide  
22 medical coverage for any injuries sustained in the  
23 match.

1 **SEC. 6. REGISTRATION.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Each boxer shall register  
3 with—

4 (1) the boxing commission of the State in which  
5 such boxer resides; or

6 (2) in the case of a boxer who is a resident of  
7 a foreign country, or a State in which there is no  
8 boxing commission, the boxing commission of any  
9 State that has such a commission.

10 (b) IDENTIFICATION CARD.—

11 (1) ISSUANCE.—A boxing commission shall  
12 issue to each professional boxer who registers in ac-  
13 cordance with subsection (a), an identification card  
14 that contains each of the following:

15 (A) A recent photograph of the boxer.

16 (B) The social security number of the  
17 boxer (or, in the case of a foreign boxer, any  
18 similar citizen identification number or profes-  
19 sional boxer number from the country of resi-  
20 dence of the boxer).

21 (C) A personal identification number as-  
22 signed to the boxer by a boxing registry.

23 (2) RENEWAL.—Each professional boxer shall  
24 renew his or her identification card at least once  
25 every 2 years.

1           (3) PRESENTATION.—Each professional boxer  
2           shall present his or her identification card to the ap-  
3           propriate boxing commission not later than the time  
4           of the weigh-in for a professional boxing match.

5 **SEC. 7. REVIEW.**

6           (a) PROCEDURES.—Each boxing commission shall es-  
7           tablish each of the following procedures:

8           (1) Procedures to evaluate the professional  
9           records and physician’s certification of each boxer  
10          participating in a professional boxing match in the  
11          State, and to deny authorization for a boxer to fight  
12          where appropriate.

13          (2) Procedures to ensure that, except as pro-  
14          vided in subsection (b), no boxer is permitted to box  
15          while under suspension from any boxing commission  
16          due to—

17                 (A) a recent knockout or series of consecu-  
18                 tive losses;

19                 (B) an injury, requirement for a medical  
20                 procedure, or physician denial of certification;

21                 (C) failure of a drug test; or

22                 (D) the use of false aliases, or falsifying,  
23                 or attempting to falsify, official identification  
24                 cards or documents.

1           (3) Procedures to review a suspension where  
2           appealed by a boxer, including an opportunity for a  
3           boxer to present contradictory evidence.

4           (4) Procedures to revoke a suspension where a  
5           boxer—

6                   (A) was suspended under subparagraph  
7                   (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) of this subsection,  
8                   and has furnished further proof of a sufficiently  
9                   improved medical or physical condition; or

10                   (B) furnishes proof under subparagraph  
11                   (C) or (D) of paragraph (2) that a suspension  
12                   was not, or is no longer, merited by the facts.

13           (b) SUSPENSION IN ANOTHER STATE.—A boxing  
14           commission may allow a boxer who is under suspension  
15           in any State to participate in a professional boxing  
16           match—

17                   (1) for any reason other than those listed in  
18                   subsection (a) if such commission notifies in writing  
19                   and consults with the designated official of the sus-  
20                   pending State’s boxing commission prior to the  
21                   grant of approval for such individual to participate  
22                   in that professional boxing match; or

23                   (2) if the boxer appeals to the Association of  
24                   Boxing Commissions, and the Association of Boxing  
25                   Commissions determines that the suspension of such

1 boxer was without sufficient grounds, for an im-  
2 proper purpose, or not related to the health and  
3 safety of the boxer or the purposes of this Act.

4 **SEC. 8. REPORTING.**

5 Not later than 48 business hours after the conclusion  
6 of a professional boxing match, the supervising boxing  
7 commission shall report the results of such boxing match  
8 and any related suspensions to each boxer registry.

9 **SEC. 9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**

10 No member or employee of a boxing commission, no  
11 person who administers or enforces State boxing laws, and  
12 no member of the Association of Boxing Commissions may  
13 belong to, contract with, or receive any compensation  
14 from, any person who sanctions, arranges, or promotes  
15 professional boxing matches or who otherwise has a finan-  
16 cial interest in an active boxer currently registered with  
17 a boxer registry. For purposes of this section, the term  
18 “compensation” does not include funds held in escrow for  
19 payment to another person in connection with a profes-  
20 sional boxing match. The prohibition set forth in this sec-  
21 tion shall not apply to any contract entered into, or any  
22 reasonable compensation received, by a boxing commission  
23 to supervise a professional boxing match in another State  
24 as described in section 4.

1 **SEC. 10. ENFORCEMENT.**

2 (a) INJUNCTIONS.—Whenever the Attorney General  
3 of the United States has reasonable cause to believe that  
4 a person is engaged in a violation of this Act, the Attorney  
5 General may bring a civil action in the appropriate district  
6 court of the United States requesting such relief, including  
7 a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order,  
8 or other order, against the person, as the Attorney Gen-  
9 eral determines to be necessary to restrain the person  
10 from continuing to engage in, sanction, promote, or other-  
11 wise participate in a professional boxing match in violation  
12 of this Act.

13 (b) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—

14 (1) MANAGERS, PROMOTERS, MATCHMAKERS,  
15 AND LICENSEES.—Any manager, promoter, match-  
16 maker, and licensee who knowingly violates, or co-  
17 erces or causes any other person to violate, any pro-  
18 vision of this Act shall, upon conviction, be impris-  
19 oned for not more than 1 year or fined not more  
20 than \$20,000, or both.

21 (2) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—Any member or  
22 employee of a boxing commission, any person who  
23 administers or enforces State boxing laws, and any  
24 member of the Association of Boxing Commissions  
25 who knowingly violates section 9 of this Act shall,

1 upon conviction, be imprisoned for not more than 1  
2 year or fined not more than \$20,000, or both.

3 (3) BOXERS.—Any boxer who knowingly vio-  
4 lates any provision of this Act shall, upon conviction,  
5 be fined not more than \$1,000.

6 **SEC. 11. NOTIFICATION OF SUPERVISING BOXING COMMIS-**  
7 **SION.**

8 Each promoter who intends to hold a professional  
9 boxing match in a State that does not have a boxing com-  
10 mission shall, not later than 14 days before the intended  
11 date of that match, provide written notification to the su-  
12 pervising boxing commission designated under section 4.  
13 Such notification shall contain each of the following:

14 (1) Assurances that, with respect to that pro-  
15 fessional boxing match, all applicable requirements  
16 of this Act will be met.

17 (2) The name of any person who, at the time  
18 of the submission of the notification—

19 (A) is under suspension from a boxing  
20 commission; and

21 (B) will be involved in organizing or par-  
22 ticipating in the event.

23 (3) For any individual listed under paragraph  
24 (2), the identity of the boxing commission that is-  
25 sued the suspension described in paragraph (2)(A).

1 **SEC. 12. STUDIES.**

2 (a) PENSION.—The Secretary of Labor shall conduct  
3 a study on the feasibility and cost of a national pension  
4 system for boxers, including potential funding sources.

5 (b) HEALTH, SAFETY, AND EQUIPMENT.—The Sec-  
6 retary of Health and Human Services shall conduct a  
7 study to develop recommendations for health, safety, and  
8 equipment standards for boxers and for professional box-  
9 ing matches.

10 (c) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date  
11 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall sub-  
12 mit a report to the Congress on the findings of the study  
13 conducted pursuant to subsection (a). Not later than 180  
14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
15 of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to  
16 the Congress on the findings of the study conducted pur-  
17 suant to subsection (b).

18 **SEC. 13. PROFESSIONAL BOXING MATCHES CONDUCTED ON**  
19 **INDIAN RESERVATIONS.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the  
21 following definitions shall apply:

22 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”  
23 has the same meaning as in section 4(e) of the In-  
24 dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
25 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

1           (2) RESERVATION.—The term “reservation”  
2 means the geographically defined area over which a  
3 tribal organization exercises governmental jurisdic-  
4 tion.

5           (3) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “tribal  
6 organization” has the same meaning as in section  
7 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education  
8 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(l)).

9           (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
11 provision of law, a tribal organization of an Indian  
12 tribe may, upon the initiative of the tribal organiza-  
13 tion—

14                   (A) regulate professional boxing matches  
15 held within the reservation under the jurisdic-  
16 tion of that tribal organization; and

17                   (B) carry out that regulation or enter into  
18 a contract with a boxing commission to carry  
19 out that regulation.

20           (2) STANDARDS AND LICENSING.—If a tribal  
21 organization regulates professional boxing matches  
22 pursuant to paragraph (1), the tribal organization  
23 shall, by tribal ordinance or resolution, establish and  
24 provide for the implementation of health and safety  
25 standards, licensing requirements, and other require-

1       ments relating to the conduct of professional boxing  
2       matches that are at least as restrictive as—

3               (A) the otherwise applicable standards and  
4               requirements of a State in which the reserva-  
5               tion is located; or

6               (B) the most recently published version of  
7               the recommended regulatory guidelines certified  
8               and published by the Association of Boxing  
9               Commissions.

10 **SEC. 14. RELATIONSHIP WITH STATE LAW.**

11       Nothing in this Act shall prohibit a State from adopt-  
12       ing or enforcing supplemental or more stringent laws or  
13       regulations not inconsistent with this Act, or criminal,  
14       civil, or administrative fines for violations of such laws or  
15       regulations.

16 **SEC. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17       The provisions of this Act shall take effect on Janu-  
18       ary 1, 1997, except as follows:

19               (1) Section 9 shall not apply to an otherwise  
20               authorized boxing commission in the Commonwealth  
21               of Virginia until July 1, 1998.

22               (2) Sections 5 through 9 shall take effect on  
23       July 1, 1997.

○