

5:2A-8

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 5:2A-8

(Boxing--
implement
recommendation
of SCI)

LAWS OF: 1988

CHAPTER: 20

Bill No: A508

Sponsor(s): Schuber

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly: Independent Authorities

Senate: Institutions, Health & Welfare

Amended during passage: Yes Amendments during passage
denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: January 25, 1988

Senate: March 28, 1988

Date of Approval: May 4, 1988

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly: Yes

Senate: Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on signing: Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: Yes

Hearings: Yes

(Over)

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. General Assembly.
R311 Independent and Regional Authorities Committee.
1986 Public meeting on...reform
to boxing, held 5-19-86, 4-29-86, 6-16-86, Trenton, 1986.

Reports, referred to in statement:

974.90 New Jersey. State Commission of Investigation.
162 Organized Crime in boxing...final
1985b boxing report. December 16, 1985.
Trenton, 1985.

974.90 New Jersey. State Commission of Investigation.
162 Interim report on the inadequate regulation
1984a of boxing. March 1, 1984. Trenton, 1984.

§4-C. 5:2A-6.1
§5-C. 5:2A-14.1
§§6,7
C. 5:2A-18.1 &
5:2A-18.2
§8-C. 5:2A-8.1
§9-C. 5:2A-14.2
§10-Approp.

P.L. 1988, CHAPTER 20, approved May 4, 1988
1988 Assembly No. 508 (First Reprint)

1 AN ACT concerning boxing, wrestling, kick boxing and the
2 combative sports, amending and supplementing P.L. 1985, c.
3 83 and making an appropriation.

5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
6 State of New Jersey:

7 1. Section 8 of P.L. 1985, c. 83 (C. 5:2A-8) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 8. a. A State Athletic Control Board Medical Advisory
10 Council is created to assist the board. It shall consist of seven
11 members to be appointed by the Governor. Of the members
12 first appointed by the Governor, three shall be appointed for
13 terms of one year, three for terms of two years, and one
14 member for a term of three years, from the effective date of
15 this section. The Governor shall designate one member as
16 chairman of the council. The term of a member thereafter
17 appointed, except to fill a vacancy, shall be three years from
18 the expiration of the term of his predecessor. Upon the
19 appointment of a successor to the chairman of the council, the
20 Governor shall designate the successor or other member of the
21 council as chairman. A vacancy occurring otherwise than by
22 expiration of term shall be filled by appointment by the
23 Governor for the remainder only of the term. Each member of
24 the council shall be duly licensed to practice dentistry, medicine
25 or osteopathy in the State of New Jersey and, at the time of
26 appointment, shall have had at least five years' experience in
27 the practice of his profession. Consideration shall be given to
28 the appointment of members from the fields of dentistry,
29 cardiology, neurology, ophthalmology and orthopedics. The
30 members of the council shall receive such compensation and
31 shall be reimbursed for actual expenses as may be established

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
Assembly AIA committee amendments adopted January 21, 1988.

1 for professional boards and commissions pursuant to section 2 of
2 P.L. 1977, c. 285 (C. 45:1-2.5). The members of the council
3 shall not be eligible for membership in any State administered
retirement system.

5 b. The council shall recommend for board approval
6 regulations, rules and standards for the physical and mental
7 examination of all participants, including, without limitation,
8 pre-fight and post-fight examinations [and], periodic
9 comprehensive examinations and an extensive medical
10 examination prior to licensure and the renewal of any license to
11 be granted by the board. The council shall serve in an advisory
12 capacity to the board and from time to time prepare and submit
13 to the board for its approval, such additional regulations, rules
14 and standards of examination as in its judgement will safeguard
15 the physical welfare of all participants licensed by the board.
16 The council shall [recommend to the board] from time to time
17 designate such qualified physicians for the purposes of
18 conducting physical examinations and other services as the rules
19 of the board shall provide, and shall recommend to the board a
20 schedule of fees to be paid to physicians for examinations and
21 other services required by this act.

23 c. The council shall develop appropriate medical education
24 programs for all board personnel involved in the conduct of
25 exhibitions, events, performances or contests, so that the
26 personnel can recognize and act upon evidence of potential or
actual adverse medical indications in a participant.

27 d. The council shall review the credentials and performance
28 of each [board] physician designated pursuant to subsection b. of
29 this section on an annual basis as a condition of reappointment
30 of each such physician, including the physician's comprehension
31 of the medical literature referred to in subsection e. of this
section.

33 e. The council shall recommend to the board a compilation of
34 medical publications which shall be maintained by the board and
35 be made available for review to all board personnel involved in
the conduct of any exhibition, event, performance or contest.

37 f. The council shall also advise the board with respect to any
38 study of equipment, procedures or personnel which will, in its
39 opinion, promote the safety of participants.

(cf: P.L. 1988, c. 83, s. 8)

1 2. Section 15 of P.L. 1985, c. 83 (C. 5:2A-15) is amended to
read as follows:

3 15. a. The board shall not grant a license to any person who
does not possess good character, honesty, integrity and
5 responsibility.

7 b. No license shall be granted or renewed if the applicant has
been delinquent in paying tax which has been assessed pursuant
to section 20 of this act unless good cause is shown.

9 c. Each applicant for licensure pursuant to this act shall
produce such information, documentation and assurances as may
11 be required to establish by clear and convincing evidence the
applicant's reputation for good character, honesty, integrity and
13 responsibility, which may include but not be limited to
information, documentation and assurances that the applicant
15 has not engaged in activities with or associated with members of
organized crime.

17 d. The board may exchange fingerprint data with and receive
criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of
19 Investigation for use in considering applicants for licensure.

21 e. The board shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct
of an extensive medical examination prior to licensure and the
renewal of any license, giving due consideration to the advice of
23 the State Athletic Control Board Medical Advisory Council,
established under section 8 of P.L. 1985, c. 83 (C. 5:2A-8).

25 f. The board shall adopt rules and regulations providing for
the issuance of a passport book to each licensed boxer, which
27 shall contain a current photograph of the boxer; the address,
telephone number, social security number or other number
29 assigned by the board to the boxer and his manager; and an
accurate history of all matches that the boxer has engaged in
31 since becoming a professional, which history shall include
information on the matches won and lost and the matches in
33 which there was a technical knockout or a knockout. A boxer
who shall fail to provide accurate information in the passport
35 book in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board
shall be denied a license or shall have his license suspended
37 immediately, as the case may be.

(cf: P.L. 1985, c. 83, s. 15)

39 3. Section 26 of P.L. 1985, c. 83 (C. 5:2A-26) is amended to
read as follows:

1 25. The board shall adopt rules and regulations concerning the
2 conduct of a study into the advisability of the use of thumbless
3 gloves and the use of headgear in boxing events and shall report
4 its findings to the Governor and the Legislature within [six] 12
5 months after the appointment of all the members.

(cf: P.L. 1985, c. 83, s. 25)

7 4. (New section) No board member, employee or agent,
8 including the commissioner, shall hold an office or position in
9 any body, organization, association or federation which is
10 established for the purpose of sanctioning boxing, wrestling, kick
11 boxing and combative sports exhibitions, events, performances
12 and contests in this State or other states.

13 5. (New section) No promoter shall hold or conduct any
14 public boxing, wrestling, kick boxing or combative sports
15 exhibition, event, performance or contest in a casino hotel
16 which is licensed pursuant to or is an applicant for licensure
17 pursuant to the "Casino Control Act," P.L. 1977, c. 110 (C.
18 5:12-1 et seq.) unless the promoter is licensed as a casino
19 service industry or is an applicant for licensure as a casino
20 service industry pursuant to the "Casino Control Act," P.L.
21 1977, c. 110 (C. 5:12-1 et seq.) or is registered as a vendor in
22 accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the
23 Casino Control Commission. Within one year of the effective
24 date of this act, all seconds and managers and all promoters,
25 other than those promoters who are applicants for licensure or
26 who are licensed as a casino service industry under section 92 of
27 P.L. 1977, c. 110 (C. 5:12-92) or who are registered as vendors
28 in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the
29 Casino Control Commission, shall undergo background checks
30 conducted by the State Athletic Control Board prior to holding,
31 conducting or participating in any public boxing, wrestling, kick
32 boxing or combative sports exhibition, event, performance or
33 contest in this State. Those promoters who are subject to back
34 ground checks by the State Athletic Control Board pursuant to
35 this section shall bear the costs involved in the conduct of such
36 background checks.

37 The State Athletic Control Board may incur such expenses as
38 are reasonable and necessary in conducting a background check
39 authorized by this section. An amount equivalent to the
40 expenses incurred shall be assessed as a fee against a promoter

1 who is the subject of a background check by the State Athletic
2 Control Board pursuant to this section and shall be collected by
3 the State Athletic Control Board. The amount collected shall be
4 deposited in a special account in the General Fund and this
5 amount is hereby appropriated to the State Athletic Control
6 Board in the Department of Law and Public Safety to reimburse
7 the board for expenses incurred in conducting the background
8 check.

9 The State Athletic Control Board shall promulgate rules and
10 regulations governing the nature of and procedures concerning
11 background checks to be conducted by the board pursuant to this
12 section.

13 6. (New section) No boxing, kick boxing or combative sports
14 exhibition, event, performance or contest shall commence or
15 proceed unless two qualified physicians designated by the
16 council shall be at ringside for each boxing, kick boxing or
17 combative sports exhibition, event, performance or contest and
18 unless an ambulance containing the standard medical equipment
19 necessary to treat cerebral injuries is stationed at the
20 exhibition, event, performance or contest during the entire time
21 the exhibition, event, performance or contest is taking place.
22 The commissioner or his designee shall delay an exhibition,
23 event, performance or contest until the ambulance and the two
24 qualified ringside physicians required by this section are present.

25 7. (New section) Upon the recommendation of a ringside
26 physician, each boxer, kick boxer or combative sports
27 participant shall be required to undergo an ophthalmological and
28 neurological examination after each exhibition, event,
29 performance or contest by a qualified physician or hospital
30 designated by the council. The cost of such examination shall be
31 borne by the promoter of the exhibition, event, performance or
32 contest. A certified copy of the findings shall be submitted to
33 the council and board as soon as possible after the examination.
34 A boxer, kick boxer or combative sports participant shall not be
35 permitted to engage in another exhibition, event, performance
36 or contest if the council or board determines that his previous
37 examination report is unsatisfactory or if no examination report
was submitted.

1 8. (New section) If a boxer, kick boxer or combative sports
2 participant has competed anywhere in a bout, he shall not be
3 permitted to box or engage in his sport in this State until 30
4 days have elapsed since his last bout or a period of time to be
5 determined by the commissioner, regardless of the number of
6 rounds of his last bout. If a boxer, kick boxer or combative
7 sports participant was knocked out in his last bout, he shall not
8 be permitted to box or participate in a combative sport in this
9 State until 60 days have elapsed since his last bout. If a boxer,
10 kick boxer or combative sports participant lost his last bout on
11 account of a technical knockout, he shall not be permitted to
12 box or participate in a combative sport in this State for at least
13 30 days or longer depending upon the recommendation of the
14 ringside physicians.

15 9. (New section) a. Promoters licensed pursuant to P.L.
16 1985, c. 83 (C. 5:2A-1 et seq.) shall carry medical insurance
17 covering all professional boxers, kick boxer or combative sports
18 participants whom they promote.

19 b. The cost of the insurance required pursuant to this section
20 shall be borne by the promoter.

21 c. The promoter shall obtain medical insurance coverage in
22 an amount to be determined by the commissioner, which amount
23 shall cover the expense for the treatment of any injuries the
24 boxer, kick boxer or combative sports participant may suffer as
25 a result of a professional boxing, kick boxing or combative
26 sports exhibition, event, performance or contest.

27 d. The insurance coverage required under this act shall
28 extend for at least six months from the date of the bout.

29 e. No professional boxing, kick boxing or combative sports
30 exhibition, event, performance or contest shall be approved in
31 this State unless the promoter is in full compliance with the
32 requirements of this section concerning medical insurance
33 coverage.

34 10. There is appropriated out of the General Fund the sum of
35 ~~1[\$100,000.00]~~ \$90,000.00¹ to the State Athletic Control Board
36 within the Department of Law and Public Safety for the purpose
37 of the reform of State regulation of boxing and other combative
38 sports to effectuate the intent of this ~~1[1986] 1986~~¹ amendatory
39 and supplementary act.

1 **11. This act shall take effect immediately.**

3

REGULATED PROFESSIONS

5

Sports and Recreation

7 **Implements the recommendations of the SCI concerning boxing**
in the State, applies those recommendations to kick boxing and
9 **combative sports and, in some instances, to wrestling, and**
makes an appropriation.

1 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

3

STATEMENT

5

7 This bill provides for certain reforms to the sports of boxing
and kick boxing and other combative sports and appropriates
\$100,000.00 to the State Athletic Control Board in the
9 Department of Law and Public Safety to carry out the reforms.

11 The bill authorizes the State Athletic Control Board to
require an applicant for licensure under P.L. 1985, c. 83 (C.
13 5:2A-1 et seq.), as part of the applicant's demonstration of his
reputation for good character, honesty, integrity and
responsibility, to provide information, documentation and
15 assurances as may be required to establish by clear and
convincing evidence, that the applicant has not engaged in
17 activities with, or associated with, members of organized
crime. Also, in this bill, the board is directed to provide for a
19 study on the use of headgear in boxing events and report its
findings to the Governor and the Legislature. Also, the bill
21 prohibits any member, employee or agent of the board, including
the commissioner, from holding an office or position in any body
23 which is established for the purpose of sanctioning boxing, kick
boxing and combative sports exhibitions, events, performances
25 and contests in this State or any other State.

27 The bill prohibits a promoter from conducting a public
exhibition, event, performance or contest in a casino hotel
unless the promoter is licensed as, or is an applicant for
29 licensure as, a casino service industry or is registered as a
vendor pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Casino
31 Control Commission. Also, the bill requires all seconds,
managers and promoters, who are not so licensed or are not
33 applicants for licensure or are not so registered, to undergo
background checks conducted by the State Athletic Control
35 Board within one year of the effective date of the bill.

37 Regarding boxing, kick boxing and combative sports
exhibitions, events, performances and contests, the bill requires
the following:

1 (1) An ambulance and two ringside physicians shall be present
before the exhibition, event, performance or contest may take
3 place;

(2) Upon the recommendation of a ringside physician, the
5 boxer or combative sports participant shall undergo
ophthalmological and neurological examinations after each
7 exhibition, event, performance or contest, and before the
participant may engage in another exhibition, event,
9 performance or contest, a certified copy of the results of the
examinations shall be submitted to the State Athletic Control
11 Board and its Medical Advisory Council

(3) 30 days, or a period of time determined by the
13 commissioner, must elapse between a boxer's or combative
sports participant's last bout and his next one, except that if
15 the boxer or participant was knocked out in this last bout, 60
days must elapse and if the participant lost on account of a
17 technical knockout, 30 days or longer, depending on the
recommendation of the ringside physicians, must elapse; and

(4) Promoters shall carry medical insurance covering all
19 boxers, kick boxers and combative sports participants whom
they promote.
21

The bill also stipulates that all seconds, managers and
23 promoters, who are not licensed or are not applicants for
licensure as a casino service industry, or are not registered as
25 vendors, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Casino
Control Commission, shall undergo background checks conducted
27 by the State Athletic Control Board within one year of the
effective date of the bill.

29

31 **REGULATED PROFESSIONS**
Sports and Recreation

33

35 Implements the recommendations of the SCI concerning boxing
in the State, applies those recommendations to kick boxing and
combative sports and, in some instances, to wrestling, and
37 makes an appropriation.

ASSEMBLY INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 508

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: January 21, 1988

The Assembly Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 508 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill amends and supplements P.L. 1985, c. 83 to provide for certain reforms to the sports of boxing, wrestling, kick boxing and other combative sports. This bill appropriates \$90,000.00 to the State Athletic Control Board in the Department of Law and Public Safety to carry out the reforms.

The bill authorizes the State Athletic Control Board to require an applicant for licensure under P.L. 1985, c. 83 (C. 5:2A-1 et seq.), as part of the applicant's demonstration of his reputation for good character, honesty, integrity and responsibility, to provide information, documentation and assurances as may be required to establish by clear and convincing evidence, that the applicant has not engaged in activities with, or associated with, members of organized crime. Also, in this bill, the board is directed to provide for a study on the use of headgear in boxing events and report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature. Also, the bill prohibits any member, employee or agent of the board, including the commissioner, from holding an office or position in any body which is established for the purpose of sanctioning boxing, kick boxing and combative sports exhibitions, events, performances and contests in this State or any other state.

The bill prohibits a promoter from conducting a public exhibition, event, performance or contest in a casino hotel unless the promoter is licensed as, or is an applicant for licensure as, a casino service industry or is registered as a vendor pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Casino Control Commission. Also, the bill requires all seconds and managers and promoters, who are not so licensed or are not applicants for licensure or are not so registered, to undergo background checks conducted by the State Athletic Control Board within one year of the effective

date of the bill, prior to holding, conducting, or participating in any public boxing, wrestling, kick boxing or combative sports exhibition, event, performance or contest in this State.

Regarding boxing, kick boxing and combative sports exhibitions, events, performances and contests, the bill requires the following:

(1) An ambulance and two ringside physicians shall be present before the exhibition, event, performance or contest may take place;

(2) Upon the recommendation of a ringside physician, the boxer or combative sports participant shall undergo ophthalmological and neurological examinations after each exhibition, event, performance or contest, and before the participant may engage in another exhibition, event, performance or contest, a certified copy of the results of the examinations shall be submitted to the State Athletic Control Board and its Medical Advisory Council;

(3) 30 days, or a period of time determined by the commissioner, must elapse between a boxer's or combative sports participant's last bout and his next one, except that if the boxer or participant was knocked out in this last bout, 60 days must elapse and if the participant lost on account of a technical knockout, 30 days or longer, depending on the recommendation of the ringside physicians, must elapse; and

(4) Promoters shall carry medical insurance covering all boxers, kick boxers and combative sports participants whom they promote, and the insurance shall extend for at least six months from the date of the bout.

The amendment adopted by the Committee reduced the appropriation from the General Fund to the State Athletic Control Board from \$100,000.00 to \$90,000.00.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1988 session pending technical review. As reported the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 508 1R

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 29, 1988

The Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 508 1R.

This bill amends and supplements P.L. 1985, c. 83 to provide for certain reforms to the sports of boxing, wrestling, kick boxing and other combative sports. This bill appropriates \$90,000.00 to the State Athletic Control Board in the Department of Law and Public Safety to carry out the reforms.

The bill authorizes the State Athletic Control Board to require an applicant for licensure under P.L. 1985, c. 83 (C. 5:2A-1 et seq.), as part of the applicant's demonstration of his reputation for good character, honesty, integrity and responsibility, to provide information, documentation and assurances as may be required, to establish by clear and convincing evidence that the applicant has not engaged in activities, or associated, with members of organized crime. Also, the board is directed to provide for a study on the advisability of the use of headgear in boxing events and report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature. The bill prohibits any member, employee or agent of the board, including the commissioner, from holding an office or position in any body which is established for the purpose of sanctioning boxing, wrestling, kick boxing and combative sports exhibitions, events, performances and contests in this State or any other state.

The bill prohibits a promoter from conducting a public exhibition, event, performance or contest in a casino hotel unless the promoter is licensed, or is an applicant for licensure, as a casino service industry or is registered as a vendor pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Casino Control Commission. Also, the bill requires all seconds, managers and promoters who are not so licensed, are not applicants for licensure, or are not so registered, to undergo background checks conducted by the

State Athletic Control Board within one year of the effective date of the bill, prior to holding, conducting, or participating in any public boxing, wrestling, kick boxing or combative sports exhibition, event, performance or contest in this State.

Regarding boxing, kick boxing and combative sports exhibitions, events, performances and contests, the bill requires the following:

(1) An ambulance containing the standard medical equipment necessary to treat cerebral injuries and two qualified ringside physicians shall be present before the exhibition, event, performance or contest may take place;

(2) Upon the recommendation of a ringside physician, the boxer or combative sports participant shall undergo ophthalmological and neurological examinations after each exhibition, event, performance or contest, and before the participant may engage in another exhibition, event, performance or contest, a certified copy of the results of the examinations shall be submitted to the State Athletic Control Board and its Medical Advisory Council. Also, if the board or council determines that the examination report is unsatisfactory, the sports participant will not be permitted to engage in another exhibition, event, performance or contest;

(3) 30 days, or a period of time determined by the commissioner, must elapse between a boxer's or combative sports participant's last bout and his next one, except that if the boxer or participant was knocked out in his last bout, 60 days must elapse and if the participant lost on account of a technical knockout, 30 days or longer must elapse, depending on the recommendation of the ringside physicians; and

(4) Promoters shall carry medical insurance covering all boxers, kick boxers and combative sports participants whom they promote, and the insurance shall extend for at least six months from the date of the bout.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001

Contact: JOHN SAMERJAN
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TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Release: THURS., MAY 5, 1988

Governor Thomas H. Kean also signed the following legislation:

A-508, sponsored by Assemblyman Pat Schuber, R-Bergen, implements certain recommendations made by the State Commission of Investigations concerning boxing, kick boxing and wrestling.

The legislation calls for added safety procedures at combative sports events including the presence of an ambulance and two physicians at ringside. The legislation calls for tougher licensing criteria and stricter medical examinations for fighters. Further, a study will be conducted into the feasibility of the use of headgear in fights.

The legislation is effective immediately.

AJR-6, sponsored by Assemblyman Anthony Villane, R-Monmouth and Assemblyman Joseph Palaia, R-Monmouth, proclaims the week of May 8-14 as Special Education Week.

#