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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Labor, Elections, and Urban
Affairs (SC-LEUA)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Senate Bill 290

Relating to: changes in the regulation of boxing contests, regulating mixed martial arts fighting contests, granting rule-making authority, making an appropriation, and providing a penalty.

By Senators Hansen, Lehman, Plale, Cowles, Lassa, Taylor and Sullivan; cosponsored by Representatives Colon, Pocan, Zepnick, Hintz, Zigmunt, Kleefisch, Vruwink, Richards, Cullen, Staskunas, Honadel and Seidel.

September 16, 2009 Referred to Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs.

October 13, 2009 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Coggs, Wirch, Lehman, A. Lasee and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Dave Hansen — Senator
- Pedro Colon — Representative
- Hector Colon — Boxing Commissioner, Department of Regulation and Licensing
- Jeff Roufus — Duke Roufus MMA Academy
- Scott Joffe — Duke Roufus Academy & Gladoctors Fighting
- Cheryl Clancy
- Timothy Westlake — Doctor
- Kenneth Kurt — Doctor
- Patrick Berry
- Mark Plavcan
- Pat O'Malley — Madtown Throwdown
- Allen Wichgers
- Salvatore D'Amato
- Demian Decorah
- Corey Christophersen — Konquer the Kage
- Ron Faircloth — Madtown Throwdown
- Melody Wichgers
- Michael Mersch — Zuffa
- Jeff Plale — Senator
- Evan Zeppos — Zuffa

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Josh Zepnick — Representative
- Adam Fiol
- Andrew Carter — Konquer the Kage
- Jesse Nelson — Konquer the Kage
- Jeff Nass — Officials
- Dallas O'Malley — Madtown Throwdown
- Mike O'Malley
- Lena Taylor — Senator
- Ryan Wortner — The Dungeon Peshtigo
- Joel Wortner — The Dungeon Green Bay

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

October 29, 2009

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (5) Senators Coggs, Wirch, Lehman, A. Lasee and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Wirch, seconded by Senator Lehman that **Senate Substitute Amendment 3** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (5) Senators Coggs, Wirch, Lehman, A. Lasee and Grothman.

Noes: (0) None.

ADOPTION OF SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 3
RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0

Moved by Senator Wirch, seconded by Senator Lehman that **Senate Bill 290** be recommended for passage as amended.

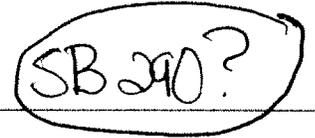
Ayes: (5) Senators Coggs, Wirch, Lehman, A. Lasee and Grothman.

Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Plotkin', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Adam Plotkin
Committee Clerk

A handwritten note in a circle that reads "SB 290?".**Plotkin, Adam**

From: Blueboard [brian@blueboardit.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2009 9:41 AM
To: Rep.Hintz; Sen.Coggs
Subject: Fwd: mma licnesing

Senator Coggs and Representative Hintz,

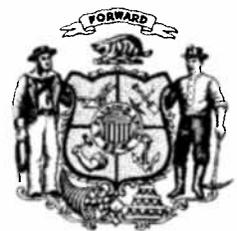
I am writing to support your efforts to license mixed martial arts events in Wisconsin. To introduce myself, I will tell you that I serve on the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, and work as a Lieutenant with the Wisconsin Dells Police Department. I am also a Master Defensive Tactics Instructor for law enforcement training and serve an appointment to the Department of Justice Tactical Advisory Committee, which oversees use of force issues and policies in Wisconsin. My interests in licensing MMA is two-fold. First is because I train in the sport and know and witnessed several competitors. I have witnessed fights that were professionally managed with the safety of the fighters the top priority, and I have witnessed promoters do whatever they can to make a dollar. By licensing the sport, you will help protect the fighter's safety and help eliminate unethical promoters popping up in our state. The fights are generally safe if the right rules are in place. Many of the techniques used in the fights are a combination of martial arts and wrestling that are already part of the Badger State Games. Many of the techniques are also trained and used in law enforcement training as well. Just like a police officer, an ethical fighter who adheres to guidelines will not cause undue harm and injury to their opponent. My second interest in seeing the sport licensed would be for the financial gain to Wisconsin. Many fight organizations would be lured to our state which in turn would help local and state economies and create jobs. Mixed martial arts is one of the fastest growing sports in history. By licensing it in Wisconsin, major event promoters would seek to bring fights here as it decreases their liability to fight in states with proper rules and licensing intact. In closing, I thank you for your time and your interest in this sport. I would be honored to provide more information or assist in any way possible in getting this law passed and working towards a future of safe mixed martial arts events in Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

Brian L. Landers
Wisconsin Dells
608-393-3491



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



PMI
ENTERTAINMENT
group

Resch Center \ Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena \ Shopko Hall \ Meyer Theatre
Green Bay Gamblers \ The Catering Company \ Oneida Casino Ticket Star \ On the Road Inflatables Games

October 8, 2009

SB 290?

Senator Spencer Coggs
Chairman, Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs
Room 123 South, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Coggs:

On behalf of PMI Entertainment, operators of the Resch Center, Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena, Shopko Hall and Meyer Theater in Green Bay, I want to express my organization's support for legislation that proposes to create regulatory and safety standards for mixed martial arts (MMA) matches held in Wisconsin.

MMA is currently regulated in 40 states, with Wisconsin one of the ten with no rules in place to help ensure the safety of the athletes who train and compete in this growing sport. As Director of Food & Beverage for PMI, I've worked closely with promoters who have held MMA events at our facilities over the past few years. During that time, I've seen the significant growth in attendance at our MMA events and the positive economic impact they have brought.

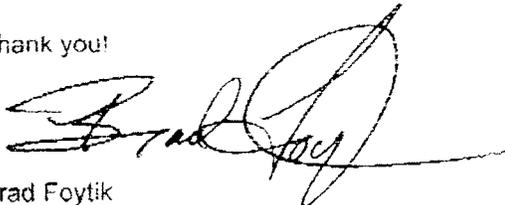
By all accounts, the promoters we work with have a high regard for safety, as well as a commitment to making sure MMA fans are presented with an exciting and quality sporting event. However, I've learned that some events in Wisconsin do not have safety measures in place, which reinforces the importance of passing legislation that would help ensure all Wisconsin-based MMA events follow specific safety guidelines.

SB290 aims at doing just that by proposing the presence of ringside physicians, experienced referees and judges, and on-site emergency medical personnel at all MMA events. These measures will not only help ensure the well being of the growing number of athletes who participate in the sport, but also protect the interests of the general public.

With that in mind, I urge the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs to review the proposed legislation and put its support behind it. I truly believe the state of Wisconsin stands to benefit by having MMA as a permanent fixture on Wisconsin's sporting landscape.

I appreciate your attention to this issue, and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions

Thank you!



Brad Foytik
PMI Entertainment Group
Director of Food & Beverage
Green Bay, WI
920-405-1136



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Plotkin, Adam

From: Colon, Hector - DRL [Hector.Colon@wisconsin.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2009 12:08 PM
To: Sen.Coggs; Sen.Wirch; Sen.Lasee; Sen.Grothman
Subject: SB 290
Attachments: Chapter 444 - Hector memo my edits 2.doc

I wanted to provide you all with this memo I sent to Senator Representative Colon and Senator Hansen. I will be at the hearing to discuss these suggested changes. Thanks for your consideration on these issues.

Héctor Colón
Executive Assistant/Legislative Liaison
Office of the Secretary
1400 E. Washington Avenue
P.O Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Phone: 608-266-8608
Fax: 608-261-2381

Memo:

DATE: 10-5-09

FROM: Hector Colon, Executive Assistant – Department of Regulation & Licensing

TO: Representative Pedro Colon & Senator Dave Hansen

RE: Chapter 444 & SB290/AB 438 suggested changes

The department has reviewed SB 290/AB 438 and would like you to consider some changes to the bill and Chapter 444. These suggested changes will address statutes that are outdated, consumer protection, staffing and resource issues for the Department.

Chapter 444 (Boxing) Revisions

Items to remove or change:

444.01 (1): Remove – amateur boxing. This was deregulated approximately 4-5 years ago.

444.02: Should require a show permit or event fee just as many other states do. We suggest \$1,500 per the fiscal estimate in addition to a non-refundable \$300 processing fee, which must be submitted with the application in order to hold a date.

444.03: Change the fee to one amount for a professional boxing club license regardless of the population of the city in which boxing shows will be held. We recommend this amount be at least the \$500 per the fiscal estimate. We do not believe there should be any difference in the fee for a boxing or MMA show permit. The amount of work required by the Department is the same no matter where the show is held. We cannot come up with a rationale to justify a differentiation of fees based on population of the city where the show is held.

444.04: We would like to collect a 5% gate tax/fee on all shows. The gate tax/fee is on the face value of all tickets sold and additionally, the promoter must pay the Department \$1 on every complimentary ticket issued. Strict penalties must be created to ensure compliance.

444.05: Remove – amateur boxing. This was deregulated approximately 4-5 ago.

444.06: Remove the sentence “An inspector shall also be present at the counting up of the gross receipts and shall immediately mail to the department the official box-office statement received from the club.” We do not have the resources to go through this process. Institute a deadline (no longer than a week) whereby the gate tax monies must be paid to and received by the Department.

444.09: Change to state, “no contest shall be for more than **12** rounds”. It currently allows for 15 round bouts which the ABC prohibits based on the health, safety and welfare of the boxers.

444.09 (3): Change this section to read, “Gloves weighing not less than **8oz** shall be worn by the contestants in a boxing contest.” Currently we allow gloves not less than 5 ounces worn by contestants under 140 pounds and not less than 6 ounces by other contestants.

444.11: Change the fees per the fiscal estimate and also include the Federal Boxing ID and Federal MMA ID card fees (charged to combatants).

444.15: Include that the department **may** hire an independent auditor to do an examination of the reports, books and/or officers at the expense of the club.

444.18: We should change the amounts of the insurance coverage we require. We recommend that we require at minimum \$10,000 of liability coverage for each boxer to cover injuries incurred while boxing at the event. In addition, the life insurance clause should require at least \$10,000 payable in case of accidental death resulting from injuries sustained in the ring. These amounts are in line with the MN statutes but we believe we could make them slightly larger as other states have higher amounts. This, in turn, would lessen the need to update the statute again soon.

Items/Sections to add:

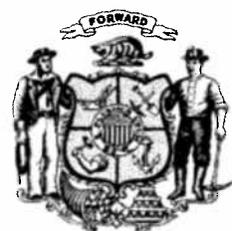
Surety Bonds: We should institute a requirement for a surety bond or letter of credit to cover the payments to the boxers, judges, managers, etc. as well as the Department in the event that the professional boxing club does not meet its financial obligations to these individuals or to us. Most other states have a provision for this but do not list a required amount of the bond but rather state that the bond must be "in an amount determined by the commission". We could determine the amount required relatively easily by finding out ahead of time the costs for the event. Phrasing it in this way rather than setting a specific amount would lessen the need to update the statute in the future.

ABC Regulatory Guidelines Compliance: Since it is a near certainty that we will always be a member of the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) unless the time comes where WI no longer regulates professional boxing, it would seem logical to make a statutory requirement that we comply with their regulatory guidelines. This would save us from having to make constant updates to our statutes and rules as regulations change over time. We can put an exception into the statute stating that compliance is assured, except where our requirements exceed those of the ABC or if expressly prohibited by WI law.

Implementation Date: There is no implementation date in the current draft. The Department usually requests 18 months to go through the rule making process.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Plotkin, Adam

From: Kyle Maichle [kylemaichle1@att.net]

Sent: Friday, October 09, 2009 10:31 AM

To: Sen.Coggs

Subject: Support SB 290-The Wisconsin Mixed Martial Arts Licensing Standards Act of 2009

October 9, 2009

The Honorable G. Spencer Coggs
Wisconsin State Senate
123 South State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Coggs:

As a fan of mixed martial arts and having a family member who is active in mixed martial arts, I urge your support of Senate Bill 290, known as *The Wisconsin Mixed Martial Arts Licensing Standards Act of 2009*.

As the world of mixed martial arts is growing in its popularity, especially with many fans in Wisconsin and also some Wisconsin natives that are active competitors in the Ultimate Fighting Championships and World Extreme Cagefighting, Wisconsin deserves to host these world class events. However, our state lacks the regulatory and licensing infrastructure under the current laws that are preventing the UFC and WEC to come to Wisconsin. By allowing Mixed Martial Arts to be licensed by the same standards as boxers are under the law, Wisconsin allows a regulatory environment that keeps the sport safe but ensures strict licensing standards for competitors, promoters, referees, and others active in the Mixed Martial Arts community. This type of framework is the standard in many states like Illinois which allowed the UFC to host a major pay-per-view event last year in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont, IL.

By supporting this bill, you will not help create a framework to continue the explosive growth of mixed martial arts, but you will help give communities that could host these events a much needed economic shot in the arm at a time when we need it. Thank you for your time and considerations, please contact me at 920.319.6827 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

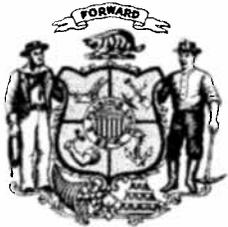
Kyle Maichle
617 N 23rd Street Apt 305
Milwaukee, WI 53233

920.319.6827

10/09/2009



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Pedro Colón

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 290

Representative Pedro Colón

Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

411 South
State Capitol

Good afternoon. As Assembly author of Senate Bill 290 (SB 290) thank you Chairman Coggs and members for the opportunity to offer my testimony in support this important legislation. Wisconsin is currently one of only 10 states nationwide that offers no regulation of the sport of mixed martial arts (MMA) competitions. I am offering this legislation with Senator Hansen to improve the safety of this popular sport by instituting needed standards and regulation.

Senate Bill 290 will ensure that our state has standards and regulations necessary to ensure the safety of athletes who participate in MMA competitions. Unfortunately due to lack of regulation in Wisconsin we cannot assure that competitions that currently take place are operated in a manner that is safe and fair.

In drafting SB 290 and its companion AB 438, Senator Hansen and I consulted with promoters, fighters, law enforcement, physicians, trainers, referees and judges to ensure that we crafted a bill that is workable, enforceable and creates a safe environment for competitors and fans. Due to the rapidly growing popularity of this sport of MMA, we can no longer sit by while matches and competitions take place where there are not regulatory or safety standards at all.

In SB 290 we have drafted a bill that established a regulatory framework so that similar to professional boxing matches that are held in Wisconsin, MMA competitions will be subject to rules, regulations and safety standards. Thus SB 290 will create standards that include:

- Regular health exams for athletes;
- Licensed physicians present at all ringside matches;
- on-site emergency medical personnel;
- HIV and hepatitis screening and pregnancy testing; and
- mandatory testing for referees, promoters and athletes.

8th Assembly District

If left unchecked, I do not believe we serve the best interest of the state or the athletes who wish to compete in MMA events. It is my belief that this bill is long overdue and that the framework established in SB 290 will allow athletes to compete in a well regulated and safe manner while giving law enforcement and the state the power to shut down bad actors.

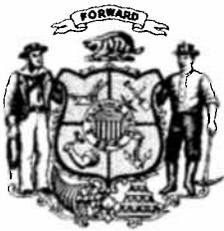
I would also like to add that nothing in this proposed legislation would interfere with the existing regulations for professional boxing in Wisconsin. Our legislation simply creates a set of regulation and safety standards for the sport of MMA.

If anyone has questions I would be happy to answer them. However, today we have numerous experts that will be testifying in support of SB 290 who may be better able to answer the more technical issues regarding the sport of MMA.

Thank again Chairman and Committee members.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

DAVE HANSEN

SENATOR – 30TH DISTRICT

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

TESTIMONY

SB-290

SENATE LABOR, ELECTIONS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

10/13/09

Thank you Chairman Coggs and members of the committee for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 290: the Wisconsin MMA Safety Act.

Senate Bill 290 and its companion Assembly Bill 438 is bi-partisan legislation that I've introduced with Representative Colon to regulate mixed martial arts fighting in Wisconsin.

The goal of this bill is to protect the health, safety and welfare of mixed martial arts fighters and to make sure they are protected both physically and financially when competing in organized mixed martial arts matches.

As I'm sure many of you know, MMA competition is a fast growing sport, not only here in Wisconsin, but throughout the country and even the world.

Committees

Joint Committee on Finance, Senate Vice Chair
Education
Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources
Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations
Senate Organization
Joint Committee on Legislative Organization

State Capitol

P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-5670
Toll-Free: 1-866-221-9395
Fax: (608) 267-6791
E-mail: sen.hansen@legis.wisconsin.gov

Just to give you an idea about how popular this sport is becoming one need only look at the numbers. According to Mixed Martial Arts Facts:

- The annual percentage growth of Pay Per View buys has increased from 47% in 2004 (over 2003) to 189% in 2005 to 352% in 2006.
- Gross revenues of PPV events has had annual increases of 47% in 2004, 232% in 2005, and 424% in 2006.
- Over 55 hours per month of television programming on US channels including Fox, FSN, Spike TV, National Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel, and in syndication.
- An average growth rate over the past four years of almost 390% in terms of hours of monthly television programming featuring MMA.

In addition, the sport has been covered by most major newspapers from the New York Times to the Wall Street Journal to USA Today. It has been the topic of numerous articles in

dozens of nationwide magazines including, but not limited to, Forbes, Time, Business Week and Sports Illustrated.

But, you know for sure that it's arrived when the Simpson's devote an entire episode to the sport as they did just last Sunday night.

Clearly, throughout the nation and around the world Mixed Martial Arts fighting is here to stay.

So here in Wisconsin we have three choices:

One option is to pass a law banning it. But that would not stop the popularity of it, nor would it stop the interest of young people in viewing matches on TV or the Internet or from training in the sport.

The second option would be to ignore it and do nothing. But that would only delay the inevitable, the need for the third option: to regulate it in a way that protects the health, safety and welfare of the fighters and the integrity of the sport.

Given the fast growing popularity of the sport, neither of the first two options are serious alternatives. And that is why Rep. Colon and I are here with you and so many others from the MMA community today.

Because, despite its growth, Wisconsin remains one of only 10 states nationwide that currently does not have any regulatory or safety standards for MMA competitions whatsoever.

This is regrettable as there are literally hundreds of contests, both professional and amateur, that take place in Wisconsin venues every year, including at the Brown County Arena in my district, the Alliant Energy Center here in Madison, Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis, and others throughout the state.

These events attract thousands of fans, and as the sport continues to rise in popularity, it's expected that the number of events will also increase in our state.

Despite the growing popularity there is nothing currently in place at the state level to make sure that these events are conducted properly and with the best interests of the fighters in mind.

I recently heard from a former staff person of mine who in addition to working as an attorney and studying international business at a university in Taiwan, has been an MMA fighter for over 5 years, both here in Wisconsin and overseas.

When he saw that Rep. Colon and I introduced this legislation he wrote to me to say how important protecting the fighters is—that regardless of the match every fighter going in needs to know their opponent is healthy and fit to fight and that making sure the fighters are insured is critical to protecting their health.

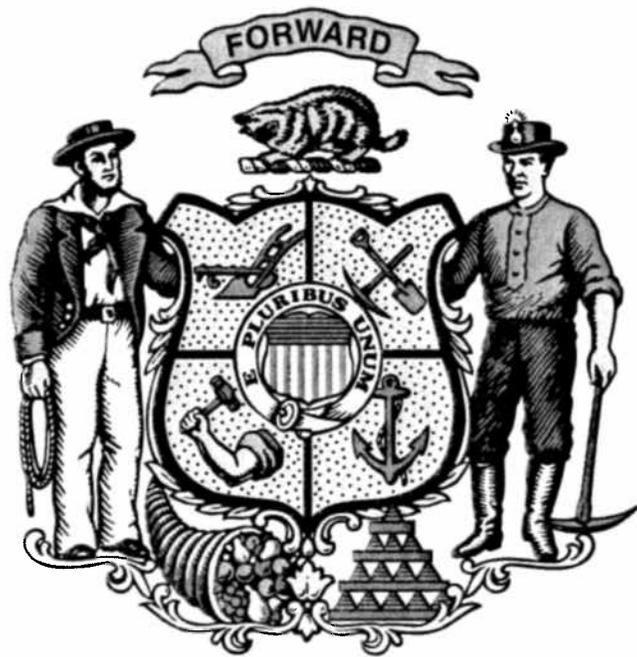
Representative Colon will talk more about the protections provided in this bill.

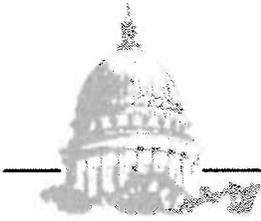
You will also hear from gym owners, physicians, trainers, matchmakers, promoters, referees, judges and others involved in improving this sport in Wisconsin in support of this legislation.

The Wisconsin MMA Safety Act has broad support in Wisconsin's MMA community, as well as law enforcement including the Wisconsin Professional Police Association and the Milwaukee Police Association.

I have another committee meeting that I need to attend and then I have to head back home for a previously scheduled event that I could not change or cancel.

But before I go I would like to thank Chairman Coggs and members of the committee for listening. And I would also like to thank Rep. Colon for his efforts and those in the MMA community and others who are here in support of SB-290.





WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
DAVE HANSEN
SENATOR – 30TH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

October 29, 2009

TO: Chairman Coggs and
Members, Senate Committee on Labor,
Elections and Urban Affairs

FR: Senator Dave Hansen

RE: Substitute Amendment to SB-290

I had hoped to be able to attend the executive session on Senate Bill 290, legislation aimed at regulating mixed martial arts events that I introduced with Representative Colon. However, because of my obligations as a member of the Senate Education Committee I am unable to attend and personally address any concerns you may have with the substitute amendment before you or the process that led to its introduction.

I would like to make clear, however, that the substitute amendment before you and preceding amendments were the result of cooperative and ongoing attempts between all the stakeholders to produce the most effective bill possible. Many of the changes were made at the request of the Department of Regulation and Licensing to address their concerns that they be provided the tools necessary to enforce this legislation.

While the Legislative Council memo pertaining to Substitute Amendment 2 captures the bulk of the changes to the bill, I wanted to let you know the reasons behind the key changes made in the substitute amendment process which were aimed at addressing four concerns that became apparent at and after the bill's public hearing:

1. That the amount of insurance required be increased to \$25,000 to better protect the health and best interests of the fighters.
2. That the fee structure be adjusted in such a way to properly fund the costs that DRL will bear to enforce the law without negatively impacting the smaller promoters.
3. That additional tools and flexibility be provided to DRL in the way of making certain promoters provide an accurate accounting of their receipts and expenses and that the events comply with the law in a way that does not substantially increase bureaucracy.
4. That a way be found to address the desire of MMA promoters and fighters to enact the law and the protections it provides as soon as possible with the Department's need for time to promulgate permanent rules.

I believe SB-290 and the substitute amendment before you provide us the best opportunity to provide much-needed regulation to this extremely fast-growing sport in a way that protects the health of those who participate in both professional and amateur matches. I hope you will agree by supporting the bill and the amendment.

Committees

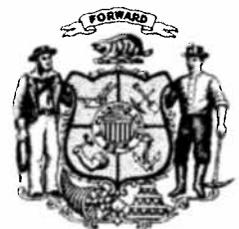
Joint Committee on Finance, Senate Vice Chair
Education
Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources
Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations
Senate Organization
Joint Committee on Legislative Organization

State Capitol

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Fax: (608) 267-6791
E-mail: sen.hansen@legis.wisconsin.gov



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Terry C. Anderson, Director
Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director

TO: SENATOR SPENCER COGGS

FROM: Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorney

RE: 2009 Senate Bill 290 and Senate Substitute Amendment 2 to 2009 Senate Bill 290

DATE: October 29, 2009

This memorandum briefly describes the changes made to 2009 Senate Bill 290 by Senate Substitute Amendment 2 to 2009 Senate Bill 290. Senate Bill 290 relates to changes in the regulation of boxing contests, and the regulation of mixed martial arts fighting contests.

Current Law

Current law authorizes the Department of Regulation and Licensing (department) to regulate boxing contests conducted in this state. Senate Bill 290 requires regulation by the department of mixed martial arts fighting contests. The bill also makes several changes relating to the regulation of boxing by the department.

Provisions of Senate Substitute Amendment 2

The substitute amendment makes a number of changes to the original bill including the following:

1. The substitute amendment revises s. 444.02, Stats., by expressly providing that every license issued by the department under the chapter is subject to the department's rules and regulations. The section is also modified to permit the department to reprimand the promoter or club for violating provisions of ch. 444, Stats., or any rule of the department.

2. The substitute amendment creates a **\$300** nonrefundable "processing fee" to be paid with each permit application by the promoter or club. Also, within two business days of a professional boxing contest being held, a promoter or club must pay an event fee, as follows:

- a. If the number of tickets sold for the event is less than 2,000, an event fee of **\$450**.

- b. If the number of tickets sold for the event is less than 5,000 but more than 1,999, an event fee of **\$2,200**, plus a gate fee equal to the *lesser* of 5% of the total amount collected by the club or promoter in gross ticket sales, or **\$4,000**.
- c. If the number of tickets sold for the event is 5,000 or more, an event fee of **\$4,700**, plus a gate fee of equal to the *lesser* of 5% of the total amount collected by the club or promoter in gross ticket sales, or \$12,500.

3. The substitute amendment replaces the graduated fee charged for a license for a professional contest or amateur mixed martial arts fighting contest based on the population in a municipality, with a single fee of **\$500**.

4. The substitute amendment requires the department, by rule, to require a promoter or club conducting a professional contest or amateur mixed martial arts fighting contest to post a bond or other surety in a "reasonable amount" determined by the department, to ensure payment of a promoter's or club's expenses in conducting the contest, including payments to contestants and to the department.

5. The substitute amendment provides that within two business days, rather than the 24 hours required under the original bill, the club is required to furnish the department a written report, verified by the promoter or by one of the club's officers under penalty of *perjury*, showing the number of tickets sold for the contest, the amount of gross proceeds, and any other information the department requires by rule to be included in the report.

6. The substitute amendment also includes the following provisions relating to **boxing contests**:
- a. Professional boxing contests are limited to 12 rounds. Current law limits a contest to 10 rounds. The substitute amendment does not change current law that provides that no round may last more than three minutes.
 - b. The substitute amendment provides that gloves weighing not less than **8 ounces** (current law requires not less than 5 ounce gloves) must be worn by contestants who are in professional boxing contests and who weigh under 140 pounds. The substitute amendment does not change current law that other boxers wear gloves that weigh not less than 6 ounces.
 - c. The substitute amendment clarifies that the provisions in current law which prohibit butting with head or shoulders, wrestling, or illegal use of elbows shall not be allowed by contestants in professional boxing contests.
 - d. The substitute amendment repeals the provision in current law which allows the department to permit a total of 40 rounds of professional boxing or sparring at one time when requested by any licensed club.
 - e. The substitute amendment requires, except as otherwise specified in ch. 444, Stats., that boxing contests must be conducted under the Association of Boxing Commissions' Uniform Boxing Rules.

7. The substitute amendment sets the annual license fees for contestants at \$40 annually. Currently boxers pay an annual fee of \$5.

8. The substitute amendment allows the department to hire an independent auditor to assist determining the total amount of gross receipts for any contest and also permits the Secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing to require the promoter or club to pay the expenses of the examination by the department or the independent auditor's fee.

9. The substitute amendment allows the department to require a promoter or club to pay the cost of designating additional inspectors, who may include a referee or judge performing the duties of an inspector for an event. In addition, the department may require a promoter or club to pay the department an amount not to exceed \$250 for each additional inspector designated by the department.

10. The substitute amendment requires any licensee authorized to conduct professional contests or amateur mixed martial arts fighting contests to insure each contestant participating for hospital, nursing, and medication expenses and physician's and surgeon's services according to an equitable fee schedule, not to exceed in the aggregate \$25,000, to be paid to or for the use of any contestant to compensate for injuries sustained in any such contest. The substitute amendment also requires that each contestant be insured for not less than \$25,000 to be paid to the contestant's estate in the event of the contestant's death as a result of participation in a contest. The original legislation required insurance in an amount that did not exceed in the aggregate \$500 in fees and required only insurance for not less than \$2,500 to be paid in the event of a contestant's death.

11. The substitute amendment requires the department to submit, in proposed form, the rule required for the bond amount to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse no later than the first day of the sixth month beginning after the effective date of the law. The substitute amendment also provides for the filing of a rule that can take effect under the emergency rule provisions of the statutes. The original bill contained no similar provision.

12. The substitute amendment authorizes an increase in 3.0 program revenue positions for the department for the purpose of providing staff for the administration of the statutes, as affected by the Act. The original bill contained no similar provision.

13. The substitute amendment contains a delayed effective date, providing that the Act takes effect on the first day of the seventh month beginning after publication. The original bill contained no delayed effective date.

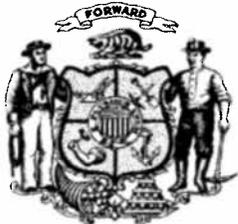
The substitute amendment contains no other substantive changes to the original legislation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me directly at the Legislative Council staff offices.

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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Combat Sports Special Issue

Research article

INCIDENCE OF INJURY IN PROFESSIONAL MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COMPETITIONS

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ABSTRACT

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) competitions were introduced in the United States with the first Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) in 1993. In 2001, Nevada and New Jersey sanctioned MMA events after requiring a series of rule changes. The purpose of this study was to determine the incidence of injury in professional MMA fighters. Data from all professional MMA events that took place between September 2001 and December 2004 in the state of Nevada were obtained from the Nevada Athletic Commission. Medical and outcome data from events were analyzed based on a pair-matched case-control design. Both conditional and unconditional logistic regression models were used to assess risk factors for injury. A total of 171 MMA matches involving 220 different fighters occurred during the study period. There were a total of 96 injuries to 78 fighters. Of the 171 matches fought, 69 (40.3%) ended with at least one injured fighter. The overall injury rate was 28.6 injuries per 100 fight participations or 12.5 injuries per 100 competitor rounds. Facial laceration was the most common injury accounting for 47.9% of all injuries, followed by hand injury (13.5%), nose injury (10.4%), and eye injury (8.3%). With adjustment for weight and match outcome, older age was associated with significantly increased risk of injury. The most common conclusion to a MMA fight was a technical knockout (TKO) followed by a tap out. The injury rate in MMA competitions is compatible with other combat sports involving striking. The lower knockout rates in MMA compared to boxing may help prevent brain injury in MMA events.

KEY WORDS: Brain injury, ultimate, boxing, jiu jitsu.

INTRODUCTION

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) competitions were introduced in the United States with the first Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) in 1993 (Krauss and Aita, 2002). Styled after the popular *Vale Tudo* (Portugese for "anything goes") matches in Brazil (Peligro, 2003), these first UFC matches were marketed as brutal, no-holds-barred tournaments with no time limits, no weight classes, and few rules (Hamilton, 1995).

Politicians such as Senator John McCain of Arizona led the charge to ban these competitions from cable television, describing the events as "human cock fighting" (Krauss, 2004). When their cable contracts were terminated in 1997, MMA events survived underground through internet and word of mouth promotions until their organizers agreed to a change of rules that allowed the Nevada State Athletic Commission and the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board to sanction the competitions

Table 1. Frequencies and rates of mixed martial arts injuries to professional competitors, September 2001 through December 2004, Nevada.*

Injury site	Number	(%)	Injury Rate per 100 Competitors
Facial Laceration	46	(47.9)	13.45
Eye	8	(8.3)	2.34
Ear	1	(1.0)	.29
Nose	10	(10.4)	2.92
Mouth	0	(0.0)	.00
Jaw	1	(1.0)	.29
Neck	1	(1.0)	.29
Shoulder	5	(5.2)	1.46
Arm	1	(1.0)	.29
Elbow	2	(2.1)	.58
Hand	13	(13.5)	3.80
Chest	0	(0.0)	.00
Abdomen	0	(0.0)	.00
Back	2	(2.1)	.58
Knee	3	(3.1)	.88
Ankle	2	(2.1)	.58
Foot	1	(1.0)	.29

*Up to four injuries recorded per competitor per match.

in 2001 (Krauss, 2004).

This study is the first report of the incidence of injury in MMA competitions. No study has previously documented injuries in MMA events either before or after the tightening of regulations. Fight results and injury incidence from professional MMA bouts since their sanctioning in 2001 in Nevada are compared to boxing data from the same state. A discussion of MMA events and combat sports injuries is also included.

METHODS

Mixed Martial Art (MMA) data from all professional MMA matches in the state of Nevada from September 2001 until December 2004 ($n = 171$ matches) was obtained from the Nevada State Athletic Commission. All professional MMA matches occurring in the state during the study period were included. Data obtained included gender, date of the match, date of birth, weight, rounds scheduled, rounds fought, whether the fighter won or lost, how the match ended (knockout, technical knockout, decision, draw, disqualification, no decision, tap out, or choke) and the injuries that occurred in the match and the type of injuries sustained. Up to four injuries per fighter were recorded per competition. These data are in the public domain and accessible on the website of the Nevada State Athletic Commission (<http://boxing.nv.gov>, last accessed January 2005).

Medical and outcome data for all professional MMA matches were analyzed based on a pair-matched case-control design. Cases were fighters who sustained an injury during the matches. Fighters who were not injured served as controls. Matches in which both competitors were injured or both were uninjured were excluded from the conditional logistic regression. Both conditional and unconditional logistic regression models were used to assess risk factors for injury.

Injuries were recorded based on the clinical report of the physician at ringside. No follow-up study was done to confirm the accuracy of the reported injury based on radiography or other diagnostic testing. Injuries were divided into seventeen broad classifications: eye injuries, facial lacerations, ear injuries, nose injuries, mouth injuries, jaw injuries, hand injuries, shoulder injuries, elbow injuries, ankle injuries, foot injuries, chest injuries, abdominal injuries, knee injuries, back injuries, neck injuries, and arm injuries. Lacerations to the eyelid and nose were counted as facial lacerations. Only those injuries documented other than lacerations—such as possible orbit fractures or a nose deformity—were listed as eye or nose injuries respectively.

The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine's Institutional Review Board approved the study protocol via exemption.

RESULTS

A total of 171 MMA matches involving 220 different fighters occurred during the study period. All participants were male with an average age of 28.5 years (SD = 4.7, range from 19 to 44 years old). The average weight was 87.6 kg (SD= 16.3 kg, range from 60.4 to 166.4 kg). A total of 1,130 rounds were scheduled, of which 624 (55%) were actually fought. These rounds were each 5 minutes for a total of 3120 minutes of fighting. A total of 67 fighters fought in more than one fight during the study period. The average number of competitions for these 67 repeat fighters was 2.8 (SD = 1) with a range of 2 to 6 fights each.

There were a total of 96 injuries to 78 fighters. Of the 171 matches fought, 69 (40.3%) ended with at least one injured fighter. The overall injury rate was 28.6 injuries per 100 fight participations, 12.5 injuries per 100 competitor rounds, or 3.08 injuries per 100 fight minutes. The majority of recorded injuries were injuries to the facial region with facial

lacerations being the most common. Hand injuries were the second most common injury, accounting for 13.5% of all injuries, followed by injuries to the nose (10.4%) and eye (8.3%, Table 1).

Older fighters were at greater risk of injury as were those who lost a match by knockout or technical knockout (Tables 2 and 3). Those who lost their match under any circumstance—whether knockout, technical knockout, decision, tap out, choke, or disqualification—were significantly more likely to suffer an injury during the course of the competition than those who won ($p < 0.001$). Also, the incidence of injury increased with the length of the fight with matches lasting 4 or 5 rounds being more likely to include a fighter who suffered an injury (Tables 2 and 3). The most common conclusion to a MMA fight was a technical knockout (TKO) followed by a tap out (Table 4). The proportion of fighters suffering a knockout during the competition was 6.4% ($n = 11$).

Table 2. Incidence rates of injury in mixed martial arts matches by competition characteristics, September 2001 through December 2004, Nevada.

	Competitors #(%)	Injured Competitors #(%)	Injury Rate per 100 Competitors	Rounds fought #(%)	Injury Rate per 100 Fought Rounds
Age Groups (years)*					
<25	76 (22.3)	13 (16.9)	17.1	132 (21.2)	9.8
25-29	144 (41.5)	29 (37.7)	20.6	260 (41.8)	11.2
30+	124 (36.4)	35 (45.5)	28.2	230 (37.0)	15.2
			$\chi^2=3.9,$ $p=0.14$		$\chi^2=2.2,$ $p=0.33$
Weight Class					
Fly, bantam, feather, or light	32 (9.4)	5 (6.4)	15.23	53 (8.5)	9.4
Welter or Middle	150 (43.8)	35 (44.9)	23.33	300 (48.1)	11.7
Light heavy, heavy, or super heavy	160 (46.8)	38 (48.7)	23.75	271 (43.4)	14.0
			$\chi^2=1.04,$ $p=0.59$		$\chi^2=0.95,$ $p=0.62$
Match Outcome					
Win	169 (49.4)	27 (34.6)	16.0	306 (49.0)	8.8
Loss	169 (49.4)	51 (65.4)	30.2	306 (49.0)	16.7
Draw	4 (1.2)	0 (0)	0.0	12 (1.9)	0.0
			$\chi^2=9.6,$ $p<0.001$		$\chi^2=8.2,$ $p=0.02^\dagger$
Type of Outcome					
TKO or KO	158 (46.2)	42 (54.0)	26.6	240 (38.5)	17.5
Other	184 (53.8)	36 (46.2)	19.6	384 (61.5)	9.4
			$\chi^2=2.38,$ $p=0.12$		$\chi^2=6.8,$ $p=0.009$
Rounds fought					
1	176 (51.5)	32 (41.0)	18.2	176 (28.2)	18.2
2	76 (22.2)	19 (24.4)	25.0	152 (24.4)	12.5
3 - 5	90 (26.3)	27 (34.7)	30.0	296 (47.4)	9.12
			$\chi^2=5,$ $p=0.08$		$\chi^2=6.3,$ $p=0.04$

Table 3. Odds Ratios (OR) and 95% Confidence Intervals (CIs) of injury in mixed martial arts matches from multivariate logistic regression models, September 2001 through December 2004, Nevada.

Model	Variables	OR	95%CI
Unconditional logistic regression			
	Age *†	1.29	0.73-2.26
	Weight *†	1.03	0.95-1.11
	Lost match	2.32	1.36-3.98
	KO or TKO	1.71	0.97-3.01
	Rounds fought †	1.44	1.11-1.87
1:1 matched conditional logistic regression			
	Age *†	3.11	1.11-8.59
	Weight difference *†	1.10	0.90-1.34
	Lost match	2.69	1.44-5.0

*Odds Ratio for a ten-unit change in age and weight.

† A continuous variable.

DISCUSSION

Though initially promoted as brutal, no-holds-barred contests, Mixed Martial Arts competitions in the United States have changed dramatically and now have improved regulations to minimize injury. A total of 13 states now sanction MMA events, the first two being Nevada and New Jersey in 2001. Since the sanctioning, MMA competitions have followed much stricter regulations. Fighters are now forbidden to headbutt, stomp or knee an opponent on the ground, strike the throat, spine or back of the head, must fight within a predetermined weight class, and are allowed only one fight per night—all important changes that were implemented with sanctioning.

Table 4. Results of Mixed Martial Arts Competitions in Nevada, September 2001 through December 2004.

Result	Number (%)
Technical Knockout	68 (39.8)
Tap Out	52 (30.4)
Decision	31 (18.1)
Knockout	11 (6.4)
Choke	4 (2.3)
Disqualification	3 (1.8)
Draw	2 (1.2)
Total	171

The mandatory “grappling” gloves now used in MMA events weigh between 4 to 8 ounces, thinner than the 8 to 10 ounce gloves worn by professional boxers, and are designed with the fingers exposed so a fighter can grasp his opponent. Fighters must pass the same physical exam used to screen professional boxers including a cerebral MRI, before being licensed. Referees and ringside

physicians are required to be present and have the authority to stop the match at any time.

Fighters train in both the striking and grappling arts (Amtmann, 2004) and become proficient in a number of means of “submitting” or defeating their opponents (Figures 1 and 2). Fights can be ended not only by the traditional knock out, technical knock out, and decision of boxing, but also by “tap out”—where an opponent either taps the mat or his opponent to signal his desire to stop the match or verbally indicates to the referee his desire to stop—and “choke”—where an opponent refuses to tap even though caught in a choke hold and passes out.



Figure 1. Fighter A (in blue) applies a traditional jiu jitsu choke to Fighter B (in white).

MMA events should be differentiated from the infamous “Toughman” competitions held around the country. Toughman competitions feature amateur fighters who often have little or no training

experience, wear “one-size-fits-all” protective gear, do not need a thorough physical exam to compete, and often feature inexperienced referees and ringside physicians (Branch, 2003). While there have been no deaths in the United States in MMA competitions, at least 12 participants have died during Toughman events—two of whom were being supervised by ringside physicians who were chiropractors (Branch, 2003). Incidentally, both Nevada and New Jersey—the first two states to sanction MMA competitions—are “among 10 states that have banned or attempted to ban [Toughman] events.” (Branch, 2003).



Figure 2. Fighter A (in blue) applies a traditional jiu jitsu armbar to Fighter B (in white).

The relatively high incidence of injuries in combat sports has been well documented. The giving and receiving of high velocity blows seems to be the best correlation of whether a sport will have an increased risk of injury. Styles that include striking—such as boxing (Bledsoe et al., 2005; Zazryn et al., 2003a), kickboxing (Gartland et al., 2001; Zazryn et al., 2003b), karate (Zetaruk et al., 2005), and taekwondo (Kazemi and Pieter, 2004)—have been shown to have a higher incidence of injury than styles that involve grappling alone, such as collegiate wrestling (Jarret et al., 1998). Strikes from elite athletes, particularly professional boxers, can generate a significant amount of force (Walilko et al., 2005)—equivalent to “a padded wooden mallet with a mass of 6 kg (13 lbs) if swung at 20 mph” (Atha et al., 1985) according to one study. This seems to explain why many injuries in the striking arts are prevalent not only in the target areas of the face and torso, but also the extremities used for striking such as the hands for boxing and the upper and lower extremities in kickboxing and karate.

While no prior articles document the incidence of injury in MMA, injury rates from boxing have been reported. In 2003, Zazryn and colleagues (2003a) reported an overall injury rate to professional boxers in Victoria, Australia of 25

injuries per 100 fight participations. A recent look at the injury rates of professional boxers in Nevada showed 17.1 injuries per 100 fight participations (Bledsoe et al., 2005). With an overall injury rate of 28.6 injuries per 100 fight participations, MMA competitions demonstrate a high rate of overall injury, but a rate in keeping with other combat sports involving striking. By contrast, sports involving grappling have demonstrated much lower rates of injury. For example, collegiate wrestling has been documented to have rates as low as 1 injury per 100 participations when analyzed for participants in both practice and competition (Jarret et al., 1998).

As opposed to professional boxing, MMA competitions have a mechanism that enables the participant to stop the competition at any time. The “tap out” is the second most common means of ending a MMA competition (Table 4). This unique characteristic, combined with more options of attack when competing, is thought to help explain a knockout proportion in MMA competitions that is almost half of the reported 11.3% of professional boxing matches in Nevada (Bledsoe et al., 2005). With the growing concern over repetitive head injuries and the risk of *dementia pugilistica* among career boxers, decreasing the number of head blows a fighter receives during a match has been promoted as an important intervention (Mendez, 1995; Unterharnscheidt, 1995). With MMA competitions, the opportunity to attack the extremities with arm bars and leg locks and the possibility of extended periods of grappling could serve to lessen the risk of traumatic brain injury. When TKOs are compared, proportions between professional boxing (38%) and MMA are similar (Bledsoe et al., 2005).

There are several limitations to this study. First, the injuries reported were based on the physical exams performed at ringside by the ringside physician. No labs or radiologic studies were ordered and no diagnoses were confirmed. The incidence of injury in these fighters may have been higher than reported. Second, although the study included all MMA fights throughout a 40 month period, the total number of matches was relatively small. Third, the fights included in this study were all held in Nevada, the premiere site for MMA events. How injury rates would change for events held under different conditions with less supervision is a matter of concern. Finally, for the purpose of discussion, knockouts and technical knockouts were not defined as injuries although many would argue that these represent the most serious of all boxing injuries. Due to the sometimes subtle nature of traumatic brain injury—and since there was no radiographic imaging available to verify whether an injury had occurred—KOs and TKOs were discussed as separate entities and not included in the

overall injury data. Further research is needed to determine the true nature of these injuries and their cumulative effects upon the individual fighters.

CONCLUSION

Mixed Martial Arts competitions have changed dramatically since the first Ultimate Fighting Championship in 1993. The overall injury rate in MMA competitions is now similar to other combat sports, including boxing. Knockout rates are lower in MMA competitions than in boxing. This suggests a reduced risk of TBI in MMA competitions when compared to other events involving striking.

MMA events must continue to be properly supervised by trained referees and ringside physicians, and the rules implemented by state sanctioning—including weight classes, limited rounds per match, proper safety gear, and banning of the most devastating attacks—must be strictly enforced. Further research is necessary to continue to improve safety in this developing new sport.

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KEY POINTS

- Mixed martial arts (MMA) has changed since the first MMA matches in the United States and now has increased safety regulations and sanctioning.
- MMA competitions have an overall high rate of injury.
- There have been no MMA deaths in the United States.
- The knockout (KO) rate in MMA appears to be lower than the KO rate of boxing matches.
- MMA must continue to be supervised by properly trained medical professionals and referees to ensure fighter safety in the future.

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6 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BEING A FEMALE MMA FIGHTER



BY GINA CARANO
(AS TOLD TO RYAN HOCKENSMITH)

1. THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING. "I run into tough females all the time. MMA women who have the talent to be headliners. Lots of really good women are coming. The stage is there with Showtime, and the fan base is growing quickly. My long-awaited fight against Cris Cyborg [Ed's note: Aug. 15] will be the biggest moment for females so far."

2. WOMEN HAVE UNIQUE ISSUES. "I try not to schedule fights the week I'll be on my period. Making weight is hard enough, and during our period we may retain around seven pounds of water weight. Plus bruises hurt more, you're bloated and cramping, and emotionally, it's tougher to battle through the training. Also, some states require us to wear breast padding, since we're allowed to punch there. One time I didn't have any; a guy told me to put a rolled-up towel in my bra. I said no. I usually just wear three sports bras during a fight."

3. THE DISTANCE JUST GOT LONGER. "Our rounds went from three minutes to five. A lot of women have jiu-jitsu backgrounds, and they felt short rounds were an advantage for strikers; they felt they didn't have time to counter and work their submissions. I liked the old length. It's hard to get in shape for a 25-minute fight!"

4. YOU CAN BE BOTH TOUGH AND TENDER. "Whenever a guy approaches me, I can see he's wondering, Can I take her? Men underestimate women. If I had to fight a guy who thinks he's tough but doesn't train, I could leg-kick him until he collapses. So yes, I can beat up a guy. But I like being a female, too. I like to put on makeup and be held and feel girlie. It's not all about being tough."

5. MY HEART'S IN FIGHTING. "It's great not having a boyfriend before a fight. You have to go off and train, and he always takes it personally. It's hard to date someone who doesn't know the lifestyle of a fighter. And a lot of male fighters aren't great dating material."

6. FIGHTS AREN'T LIMITED TO THE CAGE. "It's not uncommon for women to start with me. I went to a bar with my sister recently and saw some women glaring at us. I remember thinking, I'm about to get into a fight. Luckily, when things got tense, some big guy bear-hugged me and said, 'I'm a fan--and I don't want to see you get arrested!'"



October 11, 2009

Mixed martial artists seek to mop up image

State legislators want safety rules, and promoters say they're in favor

*By Robert Mentzer
Wausau Daily Herald*

Not so long ago, mixed martial arts fighting more closely resembled a no-rules brawl.

"When I first was training (in the late 1990s), it was a whole different ballgame," said Adam Sandoval, 31. "There were none of the rules that are in place now for the sake of the fighters. ... It's changed dramatically. It used to be one 15-minute round with no weight classes."

Not only that, Sandoval said, but there tended to be no explicit rules against dangerous strikes to the back of the head or to the groin -- and, sometimes, no one was there to provide proper medical supervision.

But in a relatively short time, as the sport has exploded in popularity, fans and promoters say mixed martial arts itself has matured into something more artful, and more professional. They say the sport, which encompasses elements of jujitsu, judo, karate, boxing, kickboxing and wrestling, is growing into its own.

If a new bill in the Wisconsin Legislature becomes law, the fights will come under state regulation and safety standards. The law, sponsored by Sen. Dave Hansen, D-Green Bay, and Rep. Pedro Colon, D-Milwaukee, would regulate mixed martial arts, or MMA, in much the same way Wisconsin now treats boxing. That would include mandating licensed physicians to be present at ringside during each match and to perform pre- and post-fight physicals. And it would establish licensing requirements for the sport's referees, officials, promoters and athletes.

Sandoval, who lives in Green Bay, is the founder of MMA promotion company Combat USA, which in September hosted a fighting event at the Rothschild Pavilion. He is bullish on the future of the sport and a strong proponent of the passage of state regulations. Regulations would eliminate from Wisconsin shady promoters who provide sub-standard safety regulation, and it would help to raise the level of competition in general, he said.

"The huge growth you see in the sport is from the rules and regulations we put on it," Sandoval said.

Safer fights

Jesse Nelson, 31, of Marshfield is the event operations manager for Konquer the Kage LLC, which last month hosted a fighting event at Tomahawk Speedway during the Fall Ride. The new regulations would not change much about how Konquer operates, he said.

"We always have a licensed doctor ringside, and no fights will go on unless he's sitting there," Nelson said. "We always have an EMT crew on site with an ambulance. We've been doing that for years already."

Nelson said he has heard of other promotions that held matches without having a doctor present, and he agreed that establishing state regulations would help fighters as well as promoters.

Nelson and Sandoval said the biggest change for them would be the requirement that all fighters have blood tests done before being declared eligible to fight.

That would mean all fighters would be checked for everything from steroid use to hepatitis or HIV infection before going into a ring where blood is often spilled. Sandoval said he believes this regulation would improve the sport and said it's not currently practiced by any Wisconsin promoter.

"Unfortunately, if I were to require guys to do blood work they'd just go fight somewhere else," he said. "That's one thing the state stepping in will make us enforce."

Another reason many promoters and fans want to see the regulatory law pass is because it could allow major promoters such as the Ultimate Fighting Championship to host events in Wisconsin -- something they don't now do because of liability concerns. Harley-Davidson is a major sponsor of national mixed-martial-arts competitions like the UFC, which Wisconsin fans speculate might make an event in Milwaukee likely.

Combat USA recently signed a one-year contract with the Wisconsin CW television network, Sandoval said. Beginning in mid-November its matches will be broadcast statewide on Thursday nights. Sandoval said that's likely to continue to build enthusiasm for the sport.

Legislators Hansen and Colon say Wisconsin has been host to more than 50 MMA events in the last two years, and hundreds of individual bouts. Wisconsin is one of only 10 states with no regulation of mixed martial arts competitions.

Brutal, but artful

National organizations such as the UFC have gained fans and raised the profile of mixed martial arts. In Wausau, MMA competitor (and Wausau East High School graduate) Lah Thao recently opened the Rising Son gym, where he trains MMA fighters.

But in the eyes of some, the sport remains less legitimate than other fighting competitions including boxing or wrestling. And to outsiders, the sport can look brutal.

"A lot of people who aren't experienced, that's what they see," said Brad Schjoth, 19, of Wausau. "It's easy to watch a fight and see blood."

Schjoth, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh who writes about MMA matches for the Web site www.wicombatsports.com, said the more you learn about it, the more you're able to see the artistry and the craft of the sport.

"I think there is a divide between the people who show up and watch MMA to see somebody get kicked in the head -- there's a difference between that person and the person who understands the art of what's happening," Schjoth said.

Sandoval's phrase is that MMA audiences "want to see people get hit. Nobody wants to see anybody get hurt." Schjoth agrees.

"A couple of weekends ago I was at a fight and a guy got clean knocked out," Schjoth said. "At first, the crowd was excited. But when the guy doesn't get off the mat, the crowd is not excited about that. Nobody likes that aspect. Nobody who's a true MMA fan likes to see that."

That's why most MMA promoters are welcoming the new regulations and rooting for them to pass, Sandoval said. A safer sport is one that can continue to grow.

"I don't think we're anywhere near the peak," Sandoval said.



Plotkin, Adam

From: John Gardner [jgardner@zeppos.com]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2009 4:07 PM
To: Plotkin, Adam
Cc: Wadd, Jay; Janssen, Andy
Subject: JSOnline -- Push begins for mixed-martial arts

FYI
<http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/business/64018587.html>

 Business Blogs



The Business of Sports

Don Walker offers news, notes and perspective on the ever-changing sports business landscape in Wisconsin and around the country

Push begins for mixed-martial arts

By Don Walker of the Journal Sentinel
Oct. 12, 2009 2:06 p.m.

Mixed-martial arts or MMA is a fast-growing sport that is trying to gain a legal foothold in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin is one of the few states in the country that doesn't have safety and regulatory standards for the sport. On Tuesday, the Senate Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs Committee will hold a public hearing on proposed legislation that would regulate the sport. The hearing will be held at 1 p.m. in Room 411 South of the State Capitol.

The co-authors of the legislation are State Sen. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) and State Rep. Pedro Colon (D-Milwaukee). The bill would amend Wisconsin's boxing regulations to include rules for MMA athletes, referees, officials and others involved in the sport.

In advance of the hearing, a group calling itself the Ad-Hoc Committee to Support the Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts is pushing for legislative approval. Also, a Web site has been set up to provide more information about the sport.

"When bouts are conducted properly, MMA athletes are competing in a safe environment that puts the athlete first. Yet without statewide standards in place, concern remains," said Ken Kurt, an osteopathic physician from Racine who serves as ringside physician for MMA bouts across southeastern Wisconsin and a member of the ad-hoc committee. "I encourage our state Legislature to move forward with this proposal and make Wisconsin the next state to enact standards that help enhance the safety of this increasingly popular sport."

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Ad-Hoc Committee to Support the Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts in Wisconsin

www.WisMMAsafety.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 12, 2009

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Group Endorses Proposed Wisconsin MMA Safety Act

* * *

Wisconsin one of only 10 states with no standards for fast-growing sport

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Bill focus of Oct. 13 public hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

MILWAUKEE – Members of the newly formed Ad-Hoc Committee to Support the Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts in Wisconsin today praised State Sen. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) and State Rep. Pedro Colón (D-Milwaukee) for their leadership in proposing legislation to establish safety and regulatory standards for mixed martial arts (MMA) competitions in Wisconsin. The Senate Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss the legislation at 1pm on Oct. 13 in Room 411 South of the State Capitol.

“When bouts are conducted properly, MMA athletes are competing in a safe environment that puts the athlete first. Yet without statewide standards in place, concern remains,” said Dr. Ken Kurt, an osteopathic physician from Racine who serves as ringside physician for MMA bouts across Southeastern Wisconsin and is a member of the Ad-Hoc Committee. “I encourage our state Legislature to move forward with this proposal and make Wisconsin the next state to enact standards that help enhance the safety of this increasingly popular sport.”

The Ad-Hoc Committee to Support the Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts in Wisconsin is a diverse group of individuals within the Wisconsin MMA community that includes trainers, athletes, referees, judges, physicians, promoters, matchmakers, law enforcement and like-minded citizens who have come together to support legislation to set safety and regulatory standards for the sport.

MMA is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country. It is also one of the most regulated and controlled in most states. However, Wisconsin has no standards and is one of only 10 states without any rules in place to help ensure the safety of MMA athletes. The Wisconsin MMA Safety Act (SB-290 & AB-438), co-sponsored by Hansen and Colón, seeks to amend Wisconsin’s boxing regulations to include rules for MMA athletes, referees, officials and others involved in the sport.

-more-

The bill already has bipartisan co-sponsorship and a statewide group of supporters. Additionally, the proposal has been endorsed by the Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) and the Milwaukee Police Association (MPA), two of the largest law enforcement organizations in the state.

“MMA is here and growing at a fast pace in Wisconsin, with hundreds of MMA matches every year,” said Duke Roufus, owner of an MMA training facility in Milwaukee and a member of the ad-hoc group. “As more and more of Wisconsin’s best athletes become involved in MMA, it is good policy to establish clear standards that preserve the quality of the sport, but also, and more importantly, keep the safety and best interest of MMA athletes in mind.”

Among the standards in the companion bills are pre- and post-fight physicals; licensed physicians present at ringside during each match; on-site emergency medical personnel and ambulances on premise; regular health exams for athletes; screening for HIV and hepatitis and pregnancy testing; policies prohibiting the use of steroids; licensing requirements for referees, promoters and athletes; and other standards designed to ensure MMA matches are conducted safely.

Mark Plavcan, owner of a Madison-based MMA gym, believes that enacting these standards will be good for the sport and take it to a whole new level. “As a student of the martial arts for the past 15 years, I’ve had the honor of training some of the best MMA athletes in the state, many of whom have achieved professional levels of the sport,” said Plavcan. “I applaud Sen. Hansen and Rep. Colón for their commitment to seeing that all events in Wisconsin follow the same rules and regulations, which will mean safer athletes and a more exciting fan experience.”

SB-290 has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs and AB-438 has been assigned to the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection for public hearings on the issue. For more information about the legislation, to view a list of supporters and learn more about MMA’s popularity in Wisconsin, visit WisMMAsafety.org.



LEUA Hearing 10/13/09

SB 290

- Hannum & Colon

- both have written testimony
- SC? - proposal similar to boxing regs.?
 - PC, yes basic premise the same
- SC? - why take this long?
 - DH, lot of 10 states that don't
 - good economic opportunity
 - PC, popularity has exploded
- BW? - \$10k for insurance realistic, doesn't buy much

- Hector Colon, DWD

- has written testimony
- SC? - as implementation date & amendment support by author & IL experience on insurance
- BW? - are participants covered by DWD?
 - depends on facts of each situation, Russ following up

- GG? - are there a lot of injuries

- not that many injuries
- how much does \$500 cover
 - \$500 of coverage for health care

- Duke Roufos

- breeding ground for future athletes
- good revenue stream for state
- UFC wants to come to WI
- very safe sport
- martial arts good discipline for kids
- good role models for kids
- going to happen, good regulation

- SC? - why so popular?
 - TV
 - guys get along well after fight
 - competitors try/work hard
 - good sportsmanships
- JL? - min. age for participation

- Scott Jaffe
 - 2905 N. Summit, MIKE - home
 - partner w/ Duke Roufus + fight promoter
 - form personal relationships w/ students
 - extreme growth in last 3 years
- SC asks for written remarks

- Cheryl Clancy
 - former MP's principal
 - unscrupulous folks do it w/o regulations
 - provide framework for athletes to thrive
- SC? - how interested in being judge
 - MMA grandma
- Tim Westlake
 - qualified to speak on multiple aspects
 - fortunate in WI to have good background
 - fewer injuries in MMA than boxing
- SC? on safety in rei weight classes
 - increased safety + good match ups
- worst injury?
 - never missed day of work

- BW? - new sport - hard to judge long term effects
 - did long term study from 2001-04
 - energy transfer is lower
- Ken Kurt
 - certified referee
 - compared to other contact sports, fewer serious injuries but more less serious injury
 - has MMA in his gym
- Pat Berry
 - 301 N. 75th St., MKE - home
 - wanted to be Van Damme or TMNT
- Mark Plavcan
- Pat O'Malley
- Al Wichger's
 - MMA ref, judge + trainer
 - increase safety for fighters
 - level playing field
- Sal D'Amato
 - 6600 W. KK River Pkwy, MKE.
 - regulations needed
- Damien Decora
 - license fee costs have to be fair
 - use Nevada model to regulate
- Corey Christopherson
 - matchmaker
 - showcase talents in professional environment
- Jeff Nass
- some guy



Presented by the Wisconsin
Government Accountability Board



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- ▶ Lobbyists

as of Monday, October 12, 2009

2009-2010 legislative session
Legislative bills and resolutions

(search for another legislative bill or resolution at the bottom of this page)

Senate Bill 290

changes in the regulation of boxing contests, regulating mixed martial arts fighting contests, granting rule-making authority, making an appropriation, and providing a penalty

<p>TEXT sponsors LBR analysis</p>	<p>STATUS committee actions and votes text of amendments</p>	<p>COST & HOURS of lobbying efforts directed at this proposal</p>
--	---	--

Organization		These organizations have reported lobbying on this proposal:	Place pointer on icon to display comments, click icon to display prior comments		
Profile	Interests		Date Notified	Position	Comments
◆	◆	City of Milwaukee	10/5/2009	↔	
◆	◆	Milwaukee Police Association	9/22/2009	↑	
◆	◆	Wisconsin Professional Police Association	10/8/2009	↑	
◆	◆	Zuffa, LLC	9/17/2009	↑	💬

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

House

Proposal Type

Proposal Number (enter proposal number)

Legislative Session



**Wisconsin MMA Events
2008 - 2009**

*updated 9/21/09

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
KTK - Lockdown Series	Dec. 5, 2009	Bakerville Sports Bar – Marshfield, WI
Gladiators Cage Fighting "Strength & Honor"	Nov. 7, 2009	Wisconsin State Fair Park – West Allis, WI
Stateline Warriors Cage Fights 41	Oct. 31, 2009	Eclipse Center – Beloit, WI
KTK 29 - Halloween Havoc	Oct. 31, 2009	Brown County Arena – Green Bay, WI
Madtown Throwdown	Oct. 17, 2009	Alliant Energy Center – Madison, WI
KTK 28 - The Return	Oct. 17, 2009	Eau Claire Indoor Sport Center – Eau Claire, WI
King of the Cage – Strike Point	Oct. 10, 2009	Lake of the Torches Casino – Lac du Flambeau, WI
Racine Fight Night 4	Oct. 3, 2009	Memorial Hall – Racine, WI
Stateline Warriors Cage Fights 40	Sept. 26, 2009	Boars Nest – Darien, WI
KTK 27 – Biker's Brawl	Sept. 19, 2009	Tomahawk Super Speedway – Tomahawk, WI
Fearless Fighting Championships 2	Sept. 12, 2009	Superior, WI
KTK - Lockdown Series	Sept. 12, 2009	Whisky Dicks – Eau Claire, WI
BATTLE in the BAY 2 – Rage in the Cage	Sept. 5, 2009	Radisson Hotel and Conference Center – Green Bay, WI
KTK 26	July 25, 2009	LCO Casino – Hayward, WI
WFC Fight Night 2	July 25, 2009	Pontiac Convention Center – Janesville, WI
KOTC – Connection	July 18, 2009	Lake of the Torches Casino - Lac du Flambeau, WI
Stateline Warriors Cage Fights 39	July 11, 2009	Beloit Riverfest - Beloit, WI
Wisconsin Cage Fighting	July 10, 2009	The Wave Bar and Ballroom - Appleton, WI
Cage Conflict Championships	June 20, 2009	Tanner's Bar and Grill - Kimberly, WI
Wisconsin Cage Fighting - Battle at Bleachers	June 20, 2009	Kelly's Bleachers - Milwaukee, WI

Sport Fighting Championship	June 13, 2009	Kettle Moraine Ice Center – West Bend, WI
Stataline Warriors Cage Fights 39	July 11-12	Beloit Riverfest – Beloit, WI
Sprawl at the Mall	June 6, 2009	Beaver Dam Mall – Beaver Dam, WI
Manitowoc Mayhem MMA II	May 30, 2009	Stars Cabaret – Manitowoc, WI
Stataline Warriors Cage Fights 38	May 30, 2009	Eclipse Center – Beloit, WI
Gladiators Fighting – Clash of the Titans	May 16, 2009	Milwaukee Harley Davidson Show Room – Milwaukee, WI
Racine Fight Night 3	May 9, 2009	Memorial Hall – Racine, WI
KTK 25 – Breaking Point	May 9, 2009	LCO Casino – Hayward, WI
Caged Kombat Challenge – First Strike	May 2, 2009	Manitowoc, WI
Madtown Throwdown	May 2, 2009	Alliant Energy Center – Madison, WI
Konquer the Kage – Lockdown	April 25, 2009	Bakerville Sports Bar & Grill – Marshfield, WI
Fearless Fighting Championship	April 11, 2009	Superior, WI
King of the Cage	April 4, 2009	Lake of the Torches Casino – Lac du Flambeau, WI
Gladiators - The Good, the Bad & the Ugly	March 14, 2009	Wisconsin State Fair Park – West Allis, WI
Stataline Warriors Cage Fights 37	March 7, 2009	Eclipse Center – Beloit, WI
Waukesha Wrecking 3	Feb 28, 2009	Waukesha County Expo Center – Waukesha, WI
Racine Fight Night 2	Feb 28, 2009	Memorial Hall – Racine, WI
Janesville Fight Night	Feb 14, 2009	Janesville, WI
Evolution 7 – St. Valentines Day Massacre	Feb 14, 2009	Columbus Club – Oshkosh, WI
KTK 24 – St. Valentine's Day Massacre	Feb 14, 2009	Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center – Eau Claire, WI
Takedown at Tanners	Feb 7, 2009	Tanners Bar & Grill – Kimberly, WI
EFC 6	Jan 24, 2009	Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds – Fond du Lac, WI

Battle in Baldwin II		Jan 17, 2009	Coachman's Hall – Baldwin, WI
Madtown Throwdown		Jan 17, 2009	Alliant Energy Center – Madison , WI
Freestyle Combat Challenge 41		Jan 10, 2009	Marina Shores – Kenosha, WI
2008			
Madtown Throwdown		Jan 11, 2008	Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI
Evolution Fighting Championships		Jan 19, 2008	West Bend, WI
Milwaukee Rumble		Feb 1 & 2, 2008	Waukesha Expo Center
Shortyz Fights		Feb 9, 2008	Shortyz Sports Bar – Jefferson, WI
Gladiators 49 – The Warriors		Feb 16, 2008	WI State Fair Park – West Allis, WI
Combat USA – Battle in the Bay 6		Feb 22, 2008	Radisson Grand Ballroom – Green Bay, WI
Titletown Combat – Carnage in the Cage		Feb 23, 2008	Brown County Arena – Green Bay, WI
King of the Cage		Mar 15, 2008	Lake of the Torches Casino – Wausau, WI
Thump Productions MMA & Kickboxing		Mar 28, 2008	Ho Chunk Casino
Battle On The Bay 10		Mar 29, 2008	University of Wisconsin - Superior, Superior, WI
Konquer The Kage		Mar 29, 2008	Sunnyview Expo Center – Oshkosh, WI
Ultimate LaCrosse 2		Apr 5, 2008	La Crosse, WI
Waukesha Wrecking – Spring rage in the Cage		Apr 12, 2008	Waukesha County Expo Center – Waukesha, WI
Konquer the Kage		Apr 19, 2008	Marshfield, WI
Sport Fighting Championship		May 10, 2008	Kettle Moraine Ice Center – West Bend, WI
Gladiator Fighting		May 17, 2008	Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis, WI
River Rumble		May 17, 2008	Omni Center – Onalaska, WI
Combat USA		May 30, 2008	Radisson Hotel and Casino – Green Bay, WI
Gladiators Cage Fighting		June 21, 2008	Milwaukee Harley Davidson Show Room – Milwaukee, WI

Konquer the Kage	June 21, 2008	Eau Claire Sports Center – Eau Claire, WI
Sport Fighting Championship	Aug 8, 2008	Kettle Moraine Ice Center – West Bend, WI
XFO	Aug 30, 2008	Marino's Country Aire Banquet Hall – Burlington, WI
FCC 36 – Back to School Bash	Sept 12, 2008	Marina Shores – Kenosha, WI
Manitowoc Mayhem	Sept 13, 2008	Stars Cabaret – Rockwood, WI
Konquer The Kage	Sept 20, 2008	Eau Claire Sports Center – Eau Claire, WI
Waukesha Wrecking 2	Sept 27, 2008	Waukesha Expo Center – Waukesha, WI
Gladiators	Oct 4, 2008	Wisconsin State Fair Park – West Allis, WI
Madtown Throwdown	Oct 10, 2008	Alliant Energy Center – Madison, WI
Battle in Baldwin	Nov 1, 2008	Coachman's Hall – Baldwin, WI
Ground and Pound at the Fairgrounds	Nov 8, 2008	Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Konquer The Kage 23 – Karnage in the Kage	Nov 8, 2008	Brown County Arena – Green Bay, WI
Racine Fight Night	Nov 29, 2008	Memorial Hall – Racine, WI
Gladiators Cage Fighting – More Season's Beatings	Dec 13, 2008	Milwaukee Harley Davidson Show Room – Milwaukee, WI
Combat USA	Dec 20, 2008	Waverly Beach – Menasha, WI
Konquer The Kage 24 – New Years Massacre	Dec 31, 2008	Spikes – Sheboygan, WI



Department of Regulation and Licensing
Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts
Proposed Fee Options

	Option 1		Option 2		Option 3		Option 4	
	Fee	Revenue	Fee	Revenue	Fee	Revenue	Fee	Revenue
5% Gate Tax	5% of Gate	\$63,500	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	*	\$76,550
Show Permit	\$1,500	\$108,000	\$2,500	\$180,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LARGE Show Permit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$4,750	\$133,000	\$2,000	\$56,000
SMALL Show Permit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,000	\$44,000	\$1,000	\$44,000
Processing Fee	\$300	\$22,500	\$300	\$22,500	\$300	\$22,500	\$300	\$22,500
Promoter	\$500	\$15,000	\$500	\$15,000	\$500	\$15,000	\$500	\$15,000
Boxer/Combatant	\$25	\$12,500	\$25	\$12,500	\$25	\$12,500	\$25	\$12,500
Second	\$25	\$12,500	\$25	\$12,500	\$25	\$12,500	\$25	\$12,500
Federal Boxing or MMA Card	\$25	\$7,500	\$25	\$7,500	\$25	\$7,500	\$25	\$7,500
Total Revenue		\$241,500		\$250,000		\$247,000		\$246,550

Estimated TOTAL Costs = \$245,440

*OPTION 4 caps the 5% gate tax @ \$1,850 per show

Assumptions:

- 72 total shows per year
- 28 large shows
- 44 small shows
- 30 Promoters
- 500 Boxers/Combatants
- 500 Seconds
- 300 Federal Boxing or MMA Cards



Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs
Public Hearing - October 13, 2009

Speaker	Affiliation	Focus
Duke Roufus γ	Milwaukee-based MMA gym owner; trainer; promoter	Wisconsin's MMA scene and growth of the sport, importance of regulation
Scott Joffe x	Milwaukee-based promoter, co-owner of MMA gym	Promotion side of MMA, how when events are conducted properly, athletes are competing in safe environment
Dr. Tim Westlake x	Emergency Medical Services Director at Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital; ringside physician; Brazilian jiu-jitsu instructor	Safety elements, experience at MMA events
Dr. Ken Kurt y	Racine-based Osteopathic Physician; ringside physician at WI MMA events	Safety elements, experience at MMA events
Cheryl Clancy x	MMA judge and inspector at WI events; former MPS principal; Milwaukee resident	Health and wellness aspect of MMA; experience at WI MMA events
Mark Plavcan x	Madison-based gym owner, trainer	Experience as MMA trainer
Mike Carbajal Pat O'Malley x	Slinger-based MMA gym owner, MMA trainer	Experience as MMA trainer
Eric Schafer	MMA athlete; Milwaukee resident	Athlete perspective
Pat Berry x	MMA athlete	Athlete perspective
Anthony Pettis	MMA athlete; Milwaukee resident	Athlete perspective
Al Wichgers x	MMA referee at WI matches	WI MMA experience, referee perspective
Sal D'Amato x	MMA judge at WI matches; Milwaukee resident	WI MMA experience, judge perspective
Corey Christophersen x	Wausau-based MMA matchmaker	Importance of proper matchmaking, safety at events