



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 111
[2009 Senate Bill 290]

Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts Fighting Contests and Boxing Contests

2009 Wisconsin Act 111 relates to regulating mixed martial arts fighting contests and changes in the regulation of boxing contests.

Current Law

Current law authorizes the Department of Regulation and Licensing (Department) to regulate boxing contests in this state. Wisconsin Act 111 provides for regulation by the Department of mixed martial arts fighting contests, both amateur and professional, and makes several additional changes relating to the regulation of boxing by the Department.

The Act includes definitions of amateur and professional mixed martial arts fighting and specifies license fees for all professional matches, as well as for amateur mixed martial arts fighting contests.

The Act also provides for the payment of an event fee based on the number of tickets sold to the event to be paid to the Department. The Act also provides for a report to be made to the Department indicating the number of tickets sold for each contest.

The Act modifies certain regulations dealing with boxing contests, including increasing the permitted length of any boxing contests from 10 to 12 rounds. Also, the Act provides that gloves must weigh not less than eight ounces for contestants in a match who weigh under 140 pounds and must be not less than 10 ounces for contestants who weigh over 140 pounds.

The Act provides that no individual may be a contestant in an amateur mixed martial arts fighting contest unless that individual can provide evidence that he or she is covered by adequate health insurance.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

The Act provides that no promoter or club may conduct a mixed martial arts fighting contest unless all the following apply:

1. There is present at least one referee who is licensed by the Department and at least three judges that are licensed by the Department.
2. A physician examines each contestant immediately before and after each match in which the contestant participates.
3. A physician is present during each match to provide emergency care in the event of an injury.
4. An ambulance and emergency medical service personnel with oxygen are present on the premises and equipped to transport an injured contestant.

The Act specifically requires that unless otherwise specified in the chapter, all mixed martial arts fighting contests must be conducted according to the Association of Boxing Commission's uniform rules of mixed martial arts.

The Act also amends current law to apply the statutes relating to sham contests to mixed martial arts fighting contests and provides a penalty for violations.

Wisconsin Act 111 specifies that any licensee authorized to conduct a boxing mixed martial arts fighting contest must 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 an aggregate **\$25,000**, to be paid to or for the use of any contestant to compensate for injuries sustained in such a contest. The Act also requires that the licensee insure each contestant 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 the contest.

The Act requires the Department to promulgate rules relating to the qualification fees for referees and judges, requirements for regular health examinations of mixed martial arts fighting contestants, and policies prohibiting contestants from using drugs, including anabolic steroids, and mandating drug testing of contestants.

The Act also provides for an increase in program revenue positions for the Department to administer the program and increases program revenue to provide funding to support the program.

Effective date: Act 111 takes effect on the first day of the seventh month beginning after publication, which will be September 1, 2010.

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February 25, 2010

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