

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1243

H. P. 946

House of Representatives, March 1, 1973

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Talbot of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Creating the Maine Martial Arts Commission.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

R. S., T. 8, c. 14, additional. Title 8 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 14 to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 14
MARTIAL ARTS**

§ 351. Commission

The Maine Martial Arts Commission is created, consisting of 7 volunteer Black Belts of the Martial Arts in Maine. The 7 members shall be appointed by the Governor. The term of membership shall be for 2 years and no member shall be allowed to serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

§ 352. Duties

The duties of the commission shall include:

1. Protect public. Protection of the public from fraudulent instruction within the Martial Arts field by verifying and assuring that only certified Black Belts may operate or instruct any martial arts in the State;
2. Rules and regulations. Establish rules and regulations governing all martial arts tournaments and instructions within the State;
3. Verification of credentials. Verification of all Black Belt credentials with official American or, if deemed necessary, oriental martial arts organizations.

§ 353. Registration

No martial arts school, association, organization or club, either private or on a campus, shall be allowed to operate without being registered with the State Department of Educational and Cultural Services with the approval of the commission.

Any martial arts school, association, organization or club already in operation without a properly certified instructor shall be referred to an official organization by the commission so as to receive qualified training. All such schools shall have 90 days to affiliate with official Martial Arts Masters of at least 3rd degree Black Belt or they must cease operation.

Any martial arts school, association, organization or club already registered with the Department of Educational and Cultural Services must present its martial arts acceptable certification or affiliation within 90 days or upon renewal date of registration, whichever comes first.

§ 354. Penalty

Any martial arts instructor in the State claiming a Black Belt which is not certified or recognized by the Martial Arts Commission or the Department of Educational and Cultural Services shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by 6 months in jail, or by both.

§ 355. Definition

Martial arts, for the purpose of this chapter, shall include all styles of judo, karate, jujitsu, aikido, kendo, kung fu, oriental self-defense or any combination thereof.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The growing interest and practice of the oriental martial arts throughout this country has given those prone to fraudulent practice of such arts the opportunity to exploit naivete regarding the martial arts. This bill would help to protect Maine citizens against this potentially dangerous situation.