

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 648

6
7 S.P. 253

In Senate, February 21, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent down for concurrence
9 and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Hichens of York.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Brown of Washington and Senator Andrews of
Cumberland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Provide Protections to Boxers.
18

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

21 Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §146, sub-§1, as amended by PL
22 1983, c. 553, §4, is further amended to read:

23 1. Boxing. The commission shall have the sole
24 direction, control and jurisdiction over all boxing
25 contests and exhibitions, except that it shall have
26 no jurisdiction over any amateur intercollegiate, in-
27 terscholastic or intramural boxing contest or exhibi-
28 tion conducted under the direct auspices of a school,
29 college or university, except as provided in section
30 147-A.

31 No boxing contests or exhibitions, except as provided
32 in this chapter, may be held or conducted within this
33 State unless the contest or exhibition is properly
34 licensed by the commission and conducted in accord-
35 ance with this chapter and the rules adopted pursuant

1 to this chapter, nor shall any closed circuit televi-
2 sion showing of a boxing contest or exhibition be
3 conducted, except under a license issued by the com-
4 mission.

5 Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §§147-A and 147-B are enacted to
6 read:

7 §147-A. Headgear required; safety equipment

8 1. Headgear. No amateur boxing contest or exhi-
9 bition may be held in this State unless the boxers
10 wear protective headgear approved by the commission.

11 2. Other safety equipment. No amateur or pro-
12 fessional boxing contest or exhibition may be held in
13 this State unless the following safety equipment is
14 used in the contest or exhibition:

15 A. Plastic safety mats;

16 B. Padded corner posts; and

17 C. Such other safety equipment as the commission
18 may deem necessary for the protection of the
19 health and safety of the boxers.

20 §147-B. Head injuries

21 1. Examination. Any boxer who is rendered
22 unconscious or suffers head trauma during any boxing
23 contest or exhibition, as determined by the attending
24 ring physician, shall:

25 A. Be examined immediately by the attending ring
26 physician;

27 B. Undergo neurological and neuropsychological
28 examinations by a neurologist or neurosurgeon,
29 including, but not limited to, a computed
30 tomography or medically equivalent procedure; and

31 C. Not participate in any boxing contest or ex-
32 hibition until the results of any examination un-
33 der paragraph B are reviewed by the commission.

1 2. Results of examination. The results of any
2 examination conducted under subsection 1 shall become
3 part of the boxer's permanent medical record as main-
4 tained by the commission and shall be used by the
5 commission to determine whether the boxer should be
6 permitted to participate in any future boxing contest
7 or exhibition.

8

STATEMENT OF FACT

9 Boxing is a dangerous activity that constitutes a
10 severe health hazard to participants, including the
11 risk of serious head injury. Numerous professional
12 studies now document the extent of ocular and brain
13 damage resulting from boxing. The purpose of this
14 bill is to provide by law for some protections to
15 contestants, including protective head gear and
16 neurological examinations if a boxer is rendered
17 unconscious.

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