

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 1089

H.P. 751

House of Representatives, March 19, 2009

### **An Act To Regulate Mixed Martial Arts Competitions, Exhibitions and Events**

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Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested  
and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PETERSON of Rumford.  
Cosponsored by Senator MARRACHÉ of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, CLEARY of Houlton, COHEN of Portland,  
CONNOR of Kennebunk, CRAFTS of Lisbon, HUNT of Buxton, O'BRIEN of Lincolnville,  
SMITH of Monmouth.

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

2        **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §515, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499, §1, is amended  
3 to read:

4        2. This section ~~shall~~ does not apply to any boxing contest or exhibition:

5        A. ~~Conducted by license and permit of the Maine State Boxing Commission; or~~

6        B. Under the auspices of a nonprofit organization at which no admission charge is  
7 made.

8        **Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §515, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

9        2-A. This section does not apply to mixed martial arts competitions, exhibitions and  
10 events conducted by license of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

11        **Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §14363** is enacted to read:

12        **§14363. Mixed martial arts competitions, exhibitions and events**

13        1. Definition. For the purposes of this section, "mixed martial arts" means a  
14 combative sport that features a mixture of karate, jiu-jitsu, muay thai, tae kwon do,  
15 boxing, kick boxing, wrestling, judo and striking and grappling techniques.

16        2. License; oversight. A mixed martial arts competition, exhibition or event may  
17 not be held within this State without a license issued by the department and in accordance  
18 with the rules adopted pursuant to this section. The department shall supervise and  
19 oversee a mixed martial arts competition, exhibition or event in a manner that promotes  
20 mixed martial arts while protecting the public interest, ensuring the safety of all  
21 participants and spectators and achieving uniformity in the rules governing participation  
22 in these sports within the State.

23        3. Advisory council. The commissioner shall select members of the mixed martial  
24 arts community to serve on an advisory council and to consult with the commissioner  
25 concerning the regulation of mixed martial arts. The advisory council may submit  
26 recommendations to the department concerning any matter, and the department may  
27 consider the recommendations in making its decisions. Membership on the council is not  
28 a conflict of interest regardless of the occupations or associations of the members.

29        4. Event report. The promoter of a competition, event or exhibit subject to the  
30 requirements of this section shall file an event report with the department within 48 hours  
31 of the event. Event reports must include:

32        A. The promoter's identity and license number;

33        B. The participants' identities;

34        C. The facility at which the event was held;

1 D. A detailed factual description of any incident that required the immediate  
2 intervention of the attending physician during an event, including stopping the event  
3 or taking disciplinary action;

4 E. When necessary, a recommendation to the department regarding any need for  
5 disciplinary action; and

6 F. A certification that the officials, participants and event conformed to the  
7 requirements of this section and rules adopted pursuant to this section.

8 **5. Rules.** The Director of the Office of Licensing and Registration within the  
9 department may establish by rule the fees under this section in amounts that are  
10 reasonable and necessary for their respective purposes for a license for a term of one year  
11 from date of issuance to a person, club, association or corporation that is properly  
12 qualified to promote and conduct mixed martial arts competitions, exhibitions and events  
13 in accordance with this section.

14 The department may adopt rules governing officials in mixed martial arts competitions,  
15 exhibitions and events, including, but not limited to, referees, judges, contestants,  
16 promoters, managers, physicians, timekeepers and knockdown timekeepers. These rules  
17 may include, but are not limited to, licensing requirements, age limits and physical  
18 condition of participants, lengths of contests and rounds, specifications of the facilities  
19 and equipment used in contests and uniforms of contestants and referees, scoring of  
20 decisions, standards of weight and weighing of contestants and the manner of  
21 presentation of closed-circuit television events. The department may adopt rules requiring  
22 health and accident insurance providing coverage in the event of injury or death for  
23 persons competing in mixed martial arts competitions, exhibitions and events subject to  
24 this section. This insurance, if required, must comply with standards prescribed by the  
25 Superintendent of Insurance.

26 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5,  
27 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

28 **6. Violation.** A person who violates this section is subject to the provisions of Title  
29 10, section 8003-C.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill allows a mixed martial arts competition, exhibition or event to be held in the  
32 State as long as a license is issued by the Department of Professional and Financial  
33 Regulation. It requires the department to supervise and oversee mixed martial arts  
34 competitions, exhibitions or events held within the State in a manner that promotes mixed  
35 martial arts while protecting the public interest. The bill requires the Commissioner of  
36 Professional and Financial Regulation to select members of the mixed martial arts  
37 community to serve on an advisory council and to consult with the commissioner  
38 concerning the regulation of mixed martial arts. It requires these events to be held in  
39 accordance with the rules adopted by the department.