

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date 5/17/23

L D. 950  
(Filing No. H-170)

**INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to HP 597, LD 950, "An Act to Define "Kickboxing" and "Muay Thai" in the Laws Governing Mixed Martial Arts and Boxing"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following

**'An Act to Authorize Kickboxing and Muay Thai Competition Under the Combat Sports Authority of Maine'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following

**'Sec. 1. 8 MRSA c. 20, headnote is amended to read'**

**CHAPTER 20**

**MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, MUAY THAI, KICKBOXING AND BOXING**

**Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §521, sub-§3-B is enacted to read**

**3-B. Kickboxing.** "Kickboxing" means a combative sport that is a form of boxing in which blows are delivered with the hand and any part of the leg below the hip, including the bare foot, with the intent to disable or cause injury to an opponent in a contest, exhibition or event

**Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §521, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 352, §2, is amended to read'**

**4. Mixed martial arts.** "Mixed martial arts" means a combative sport for compensation that features a mixture of karate, jiu-jitsu, ~~muay thai~~ Muay Thai, tae kwon do, boxing, ~~kick boxing~~ kickboxing, wrestling, judo and striking and grappling techniques

**Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §521, sub-§5 is enacted to read'**

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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1 5. Muay Thai. "Muay Thai" means a combative sport that is a form of boxing in  
2 which blows are delivered with the fist, elbow, knee and shin and in which various  
3 clinching techniques are employed, with the intent to disable or cause injury to an opponent  
4 in a contest, exhibition or event.

5 **Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §522, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2011, c 305, §4, is further  
6 amended to read

7 **2. Purpose.** The authority is established to regulate and promote mixed martial arts,  
8 Muay Thai, kickboxing and boxing competitions, exhibitions and events in the State as set  
9 forth in this chapter. A mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition,  
10 exhibition or event may not be held in the State prior to the adoption of rules pursuant to  
11 this chapter.

12 **Sec. 6. 8 MRSA §522, sub-§7,** as amended by PL 2011, c 305, §4, is further  
13 amended to read.

14 **7. Revenue and expenditures.** The board may receive revenue from mixed martial  
15 arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing and boxing competitions, exhibitions and events, as well as  
16 from the sale of goods and merchandise, in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to  
17 sections 523 and 524. The authority may apply for, solicit and receive grants, donations  
18 and gifts and may receive appropriations from the State and funds from other governmental  
19 authorities. All funds received must be spent solely to assist with operational expenses in  
20 furtherance of the purpose of the authority. Funds may be used to compensate members of  
21 the authority for per diem and expenses in accordance with the board's bylaws. The board  
22 may enter into contracts to obtain the assistance of staff sufficient to support operations of  
23 the board.

24 **Sec. 7. 8 MRSA §523, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2011, c 305, §5, is further  
25 amended to read

26 **1. Rules.** Adopt rules to protect the health and safety of authorized participants and  
27 the integrity of competition, as well as to establish a certification process authorizing  
28 participation in a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition,  
29 exhibition or event and set the fee schedules for all authorized participants. A certificate  
30 authorizing participation in a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing  
31 competition, exhibition or event may be issued for one year or such other time period as  
32 may be fixed by rule under this chapter. The board may establish requirements to ensure  
33 that a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event  
34 is not conducted unless a promoter's fee has been paid and that each competitor has been  
35 examined by a physician who has certified the competitor's fitness to participate in the  
36 mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event.  
37 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules, as defined in Title 5,  
38 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Notwithstanding this subsection, rules establishing fees,  
39 including promotion fees pursuant to section 524, are major substantive rules as defined in  
40 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The authority's rules must include, but are not limited  
41 to, the following

- 42 A Rules of competition, weighing of participants and scoring of decisions,
- 43 B Length of contests and rounds;

# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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- C Availability of medical services, including a requirement that a physician be present during a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event,
- D Age limits, which must include a minimum age of not less than 18 years,
- E Weight limits and classification of participants,
- F Physical condition of participants,
- G Qualifications of referees and other authorized participants,
- H Uniforms, attire, safety gear and equipment of authorized participants,
- I Specifications of facilities and equipment, and
- J Requirements for health and accident insurance providing coverage in the event of injury or death to authorized participants This coverage must comply with standards prescribed by the Superintendent of Insurance.

**Sec. 8. 8 MRSA §524**, as amended by PL 2011, c 305, §6, is further amended to read

**§524. Promotion fees**

In addition to the requirements set by rule pursuant to section 523, a promoter of a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event authorized under this chapter must pay a fee set by the authority in advance of the mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event A promoter who fails to pay the fee required pursuant to this section is prohibited from promoting the competition as well as any further competitions, exhibitions or events held under this chapter until the fee and any penalties are paid in full or satisfactory arrangements are made with the authority

**Sec. 9. 8 MRSA §526**, as amended by PL 2011, c 305, §8, is further amended to read

**§526. Prohibited interests of officers, directors and employees**

A director of the authority or a spouse, domestic partner or dependent child of a director of the authority may not receive any direct personal benefit from the activities or undertakings of the authority This section does not prohibit corporations or other entities with which a director is associated by reason of ownership or employment from participating in mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing activities if ownership or employment is made known to the authority and the director abstains from voting on matters relating to that participation A director of the authority must comply with the requirements of Title 5, section 18

**Sec. 10. 8 MRSA §529**, as amended by PL 2011, c 305, §9, is further amended to read

**§529. Powers of board**

**1. Inspections and investigations.** The board may enter and inspect the premises where a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event is to be conducted and question persons present and review documents to the extent

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it considers necessary to determine whether the event is in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

2. **Other action.** The board may take all reasonable steps to ensure that a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event is conducted in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter and take all other lawful action necessary and incidental to its purposes.

**Sec. 11. 8 MRSA §532**, as amended by PL 2011, c 305, §10, is further amended to read

**§532. Fines; enforcement**

The board may, after a hearing under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4, impose a fine of not more than \$500 for each violation against a person who violates this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this chapter or who participates in a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event without the certificate described under section 523, subsection 1. The Attorney General may bring an action in Superior Court to enjoin a mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event from occurring for which the promoter's fee has not been paid or a participant who does not meet the qualifications of this chapter from participating in the competition, exhibition or event

**Sec. 12. 17-A MRSA §515, sub-§2-A**, as amended by PL 2011, c 305, §12, is further amended to read

2-A. This section does not apply to any mixed martial arts, Muay Thai, kickboxing or boxing competition, exhibition or event authorized pursuant to Title 8, chapter 20 as long as rules have been adopted by the Combat Sports Authority of Maine pursuant to Title 8, chapter 20 '

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill. It adds definitions for "kickboxing" and "Muay Thai" to the laws governing mixed martial arts and boxing, brings kickboxing and Muay Thai under the jurisdiction of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine and exempts kickboxing and Muay Thai, as authorized by the authority, from the crime of unlawful prize fighting

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

(See attached)



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 950

LR 834(02)

## An Act to Define "Kickboxing" and "Muay Thai" in the Laws Governing Mixed Martial Arts and Boxing

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A (H-170)*  
Committee: Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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### Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium revenue increase - General Fund

#### Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

There may be a minor reduction of workload associated with the minimal number of cases that will no longer be filed in the court system.

A reduction in fine revenue associated with exempting kickboxing and Muay Thai from the crime of unlawful prize fighting will decrease General Fund and other dedicated revenue by minor amounts

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Adding kickboxing and Muay Thai to the regulatory oversight responsibilities of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine may increase the amount of revenue collected for competitions and events staged by the authority. By statute, any funds in excess of operating expenses must be transferred from the authority's reserve fund to the General Fund at the end of each fiscal year. The amount can not be determined at this time.

Any additional costs to the Department of the Attorney General can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.