

# HOUSE BILL NO. 5156

October 17, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Stone and Paiz and referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform.

A bill to amend 2004 PA 403, entitled "Michigan unarmed combat regulatory act," by amending sections 10, 11, 33b, and 54a (MCL 338.3610, 338.3611, 338.3633b, and 338.3654a), sections 10 and 11 as amended and section 33b as added by 2015 PA 183 and section 54a as amended by 2017 PA 146, and by adding sections 33e, 52a, and 54b.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 10. As used in this act:

2           (a) "Amateur" means any of following:

3           (i) An individual who is not competing and has never competed  
4 for a prize or who is not competing and has not competed with or  
5 against a professional for a prize.

6           (ii) For a boxing contest, an individual who is required to  
7 register with USA Boxing, or any other amateur boxing organization  
8 recognized by the department to participate.

9           (b) "Boxer" means an individual who is licensed to engage in  
10 boxing.

11           (c) "Boxing" means the sport of attack and defense with fists,  
12 using padded gloves, in a square ring.

13           (d) "Chemical dependency" means that term as defined in  
14 section 16106a of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL  
15 333.16106a.

16           (e) "Commission" means the Michigan unarmed combat commission  
17 created in section 20.

18           (f) "Complainant" means a person that files a complaint with  
19 the department alleging that a person has violated this act or a  
20 rule promulgated or an order issued under this act. If a complaint  
21 is made by the department, complainant means 1 or more employees of  
22 the department who act as the complainant.

23           (g) "Contest" means an individual bout between 2 boxers, 2  
24 mixed martial artists, or 2 individuals engaged in other unarmed  
25 combat that is subject to this act.

26           (h) "Contestant" means an individual who competes in an  
27 unarmed combat contest or event.

28           (i) **"Cornerperson" means an individual who provides assistance**  
29 **to a contestant before or during a contest, including, but not**

1 limited to, wrapping the contestant's hands for fighting or  
2 providing water.

3 (j) "Cutperson" means an individual who prevents and treats  
4 physical damage for a contestant for a contest.

5 (k) ~~(i)~~—"Department" means the department of licensing and  
6 regulatory affairs.

7 (l) ~~(j)~~—"Director" means the director of the department or ~~his~~  
8 ~~or her~~ **the director's** designee.

9 (m) ~~(k)~~—"Emergency medical technician" means that term as  
10 defined in section 20904 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368,  
11 MCL 333.20904.

12 (n) ~~(l)~~—"Employee of the department" means an individual who is  
13 employed by the department, or a person that is under contract to  
14 the department, whose duty ~~it is~~ to enforce ~~the provisions of this~~  
15 act or **the** rules promulgated or orders issued under this act.

16 (o) ~~(m)~~—"Event" means a program of unarmed combat that is  
17 planned for a specific date and time by a promoter and is subject  
18 to the approval of the department under this act.

19 (p) ~~(n)~~—"Fund" means the Michigan unarmed combat fund created  
20 in section 22.

21 (q) ~~(o)~~—"Good moral character" means good moral character as  
22 determined and defined under 1974 PA 381, MCL 338.41 to 338.47.

23 (r) ~~(p)~~—"Impaired" means the inability or immediately  
24 impending inability of an individual to safely participate in a  
25 contest or event ~~due to his or her~~ **because of the individual's**  
26 substance abuse, chemical dependency, or use of drugs or alcohol  
27 that does not constitute substance abuse or chemical dependency.

28 (s) "Manager" means an individual who acts in a representative  
29 capacity on behalf of a contestant in certain situations related to

1 the contestant's career, including, but not limited to, identifying  
 2 a contest or event for the contestant to compete in, negotiating  
 3 terms and pay for a contest or event, or representing the interest  
 4 of the contestant.

5 (t) "Martial art" means a form of weaponless discipline of  
 6 combat or self-defense that uses physical skills and coordination  
 7 and is practiced as a combat sport, subject to the limitations  
 8 contained in this act and rules promulgated under this act.

9 (u) ~~(q)~~ "Matchmaker" means an individual who is responsible  
 10 for arranging individual contests of unarmed combat.

11 (v) ~~(r)~~ "Medical clearance" means a determination by a  
 12 physician, made with reasonable medical certainty, that a  
 13 contestant does not have a medical condition that would prevent ~~him~~  
 14 ~~or her~~ **the contestant** from being able to participate in an event or  
 15 contest.

16 (w) ~~(s)~~ "Mixed martial artist" means an individual who is  
 17 licensed to compete in a mixed martial arts event or contest.

18 (x) ~~(t)~~ "Mixed martial arts" means a form of combat, either  
 19 amateur or professional, that involves the use of a combination of  
 20 techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts,  
 21 including grappling, kicking, and striking, subject to the  
 22 limitations contained in this act and rules promulgated under this  
 23 act.

24 Sec. 11. As used in this act:

25 (a) "Participant" means a referee, judge, matchmaker,  
 26 timekeeper, contestant, **second**, or promoter.

27 (b) "Person" means any of the following:

28 (i) An individual, corporation, limited liability company,  
 29 partnership, association, or other legal entity.

1           (ii) A department, board, commission, agency, or authority of  
2 the United States, this state, or a political subdivision of this  
3 state or a public school, community college, or university.

4           (iii) A training center or a school or other educational  
5 institution.

6           (iv) A combination of persons described in subparagraphs (i) to  
7 (iii).

8           (c) "Physician" means that term as defined in section 17001 or  
9 17501 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17001 and  
10 333.17501.

11           (d) "Prize" means currency or any other valuable compensation  
12 or reward offered or given to a contestant. The term does not  
13 include a watch, medal, article of jewelry, trophy, or ornament  
14 that is suitably inscribed to show that it is given for  
15 participation in a contest and costs \$200.00 or less.

16           (e) "Professional" means an individual who is competing or has  
17 competed in unarmed combat for a prize.

18           (f) "Promoter" means a person that produces or stages, in  
19 whole or in part, an unarmed combat contest or event.

20           (g) "Purse" means a prize or any other remuneration offered to  
21 contestants to compete in a contest or event. The term includes a  
22 professional's share of any payment received for radio, television,  
23 motion picture rights, or other media.

24           (h) "Respondent" means a licensee or other person against  
25 which a complaint is filed under this act.

26           (i) "Rule" means a rule promulgated under the administrative  
27 procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328.

28           (j) **"Second" means an individual who assists a contestant**  
29 **during a contest, including, but not limited to, a cornerperson,**

1 cutperson, or manager. **Second** does not include a cutperson who is  
 2 responsible for preventing and treating damage for both contestants  
 3 participating in a contest.

4 (k) ~~(j)~~—"Settlement" means an agreement, stipulation, consent  
 5 order, waiver, default, or other method of settlement of a  
 6 complaint that is agreed to by the parties and the department.

7 (l) ~~(k)~~—"Substance abuse" means that term as defined in section  
 8 16106a of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16106a.

9 (m) "**Third-party sanctioning body**" means a person independent  
 10 of the department and commission that is approved by the commission  
 11 under section 33e to supervise, conduct, and oversee contests of  
 12 certain unarmed combat events in this state.

13 (n) ~~(l)~~—"Training center" means an institution that is formed  
 14 or operated principally to provide instruction in boxing, mixed  
 15 martial arts, or other sports.

16 (o) ~~(m)~~—"Unarmed combat" means any of the following:

17 (i) Professional boxing.

18 (ii) Professional or amateur mixed martial arts.

19 (iii) Any other form of competition in which a blow is usually  
 20 struck or another fighting technique is applied that may reasonably  
 21 be expected to inflict injury.

22 Sec. 33b. (1) An individual shall not participate in a contest  
 23 or event as a referee, judge, matchmaker, **second**, or timekeeper  
 24 without a participant license ~~from~~ **issued by** the department under  
 25 this section. To obtain a participant license, an applicant must  
 26 submit all of the following to the department:

27 (a) An application. The department may prescribe the form and  
 28 the contents of the application form.

29 (b) With the application described in subdivision (a), a

1 nonrefundable application processing fee in the amount of \$30.00  
2 and 1 of the following annual license fees, as applicable:

- 3 (i) Referee license, \$150.00.
- 4 (ii) Judge license, \$70.00.
- 5 (iii) Matchmaker license, \$150.00.
- 6 **(iv) Second license, \$50.00.**
- 7 **(v) ~~(iv)~~ Timekeeper license, \$70.00.**

8 (2) An applicant for a referee, judge, matchmaker, **second**, or  
9 timekeeper participant license must demonstrate to the satisfaction  
10 of the department that ~~he or she~~ **the applicant** meets all of the  
11 following to receive a license under this section:

- 12 (a) Has good moral character.
- 13 (b) Is ~~at least~~ **not less than** 18 years of age.
- 14 (c) Any other **applicable** requirement **described in section 52a**  
15 **or** established by rule.

16 **Sec. 33e. (1) A third-party sanctioning body may apply, by**  
17 **submitting an application on a form and in a manner prescribed by**  
18 **the commission, to sanction an unarmed combat event in 1 or more**  
19 **martial art, including, but not limited to, judo, taekwondo,**  
20 **karate, or kempo.**

21 **(2) If the commission approves a third-party sanctioning body**  
22 **to sanction an unarmed combat event described in subsection (1),**  
23 **the third-party sanctioning body must pay the department a**  
24 **nonrefundable application and event fee of \$500.00.**

25 **(3) Not more than 2 business days after the date of an unarmed**  
26 **combat event sanctioned by a third-party sanctioning body, the**  
27 **third-party sanctioning body shall report the contest results of**  
28 **the event to the department for review and to each national contest**  
29 **results database selected by the department. On request of the**

1 commission, the third-party sanctioning body shall make the contest  
2 results available to the commission.

3 (4) The commission shall promulgate rules under the  
4 administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to  
5 24.328, to implement this section. The rules must include, but need  
6 not be limited to, all of the following:

7 (a) An evaluation of a third-party sanctioning body.

8 (b) Qualifications for approval of a third-party sanctioning  
9 body to sanction an unarmed combat event in this state.

10 (c) Procedures to ensure that an approved third-party  
11 sanctioning body complies with all applicable laws.

12 Sec. 52a. (1) To be eligible for a license, an applicant for a  
13 referee, judge, or second license must complete a concussion  
14 management and treatment training program acceptable to the  
15 department. The department shall publish a list of acceptable  
16 concussion management and treatment training programs on its  
17 website. As a condition of license renewal, an applicant for a  
18 referee, judge, or second license must complete the training  
19 described in this subsection not less than once every 5 years.

20 (2) To be eligible for a license, an applicant for a referee,  
21 judge, or timekeeper license may be required to serve as a referee,  
22 judge, or timekeeper for a certain amount of time or number of  
23 rounds, as determined by the department, in amateur-level unarmed  
24 combat contests. The department shall publish minimum experience  
25 requirements that satisfy this subsection on its website.

26 Sec. 54a. (1) A licensed promoter that presents an unarmed  
27 combat event in this state must comply with all of the following:

28 (a) At least 30 days before the event, submit a request for  
29 approval of the event to the department, on a form prescribed by



1 the department. The request shall include the names the promoter is  
2 required to provide under subdivisions (d) ~~and~~ (e). ~~(f), and~~  
3 ~~(g).~~

4 (b) Within the 5-day period ~~preceeding~~ **before** a professional  
5 ~~boxing or professional mixed martial arts~~ **unarmed combat** event,  
6 submit the fight records of each contestant to the department.  
7 "Fight records" means that term as defined by the department by  
8 rule.

9 (c) Pay all obligations that are related to the normal course  
10 of promoting an unarmed combat event, including, but not limited  
11 to, venue rent and judge, physician, referee, and timekeeper fees.

12 (d) Arrange for a physician to attend the event for purposes  
13 of subsection (2)(k), and arrange for an alternate physician to  
14 attend the event if the original physician is unable to attend the  
15 event. The promoter shall include the name of the physician and the  
16 alternate physician described in this subdivision in the request  
17 submitted under subdivision (a).

18 (e) Arrange for an ambulance that is staffed by emergency  
19 medical technicians to be on the premises to attend the event for  
20 purposes of subsection (2)(j), and arrange for an alternate  
21 ambulance that is staffed by emergency medical technicians to be on  
22 the premises to attend the event if the original ambulance and  
23 emergency medical technicians are unable to attend the event. The  
24 promoter shall include the name of the ambulance provider and the  
25 alternate ambulance provider described in this subdivision in the  
26 request submitted under subdivision (a).

27 ~~(f) Arrange for a referee, judges, and a timekeeper to attend~~  
28 ~~the event for purposes of subsection (2)(l). The promoter shall~~  
29 ~~include the names of the referee, judges, and timekeeper described~~

1 ~~in this subdivision in the request submitted under subdivision (a).~~

2 ~~(g) Arrange for an inspector who meets the requirements of~~  
3 ~~section 33(11) to attend the event for purposes of subsection (2) (l).~~  
4 ~~The promoter shall include the name of the inspector, and any other~~  
5 ~~information about the inspector that is required by the department,~~  
6 ~~in the request submitted under subdivision (a).~~

7 **(f)** ~~(h)~~ Maintain records of the event for at least 1 year  
8 after the date of the scheduled event and make those records  
9 available to the department or law enforcement officials on  
10 request.

11 (2) A licensed promoter that is presenting an amateur mixed  
12 martial arts, professional mixed martial arts, or professional  
13 boxing event in this state shall ensure that all of the following  
14 are met in the conduct of the event:

15 (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), each individual  
16 mixed martial arts contest consists of not more than 3 rounds, of  
17 not more than 5 minutes' duration, with at least a 1-minute rest  
18 period between each round; and the length of each individual boxing  
19 contest is determined by the department but does not exceed 10  
20 rounds, of not more than 5 minutes' duration, with at least a 1-  
21 minute rest period between each round.

22 (b) Each individual national or international championship  
23 mixed martial arts contest consists of not more than 5 rounds, of  
24 not more than 5 minutes' duration, with at least a 1-minute rest  
25 period between each round; and the length of each individual  
26 national or international championship boxing contest is determined  
27 by the department but does not exceed 12 rounds, of not more than 5  
28 minutes' duration, with at least a 1-minute rest period between  
29 each round.

1 (c) Each mixed martial arts contestant wears gloves, supplied  
2 by the promoter, that weigh at least 4 ounces and not more than 8  
3 ounces; and each boxing contestant wears gloves that each weigh at  
4 least 8 ounces and not more than 16 ounces.

5 (d) The referee examines the gloves worn by each contestant  
6 before and during a contest. If the referee finds that a glove is  
7 misplaced, lumpy, broken, roughed, or otherwise unfit, the  
8 contestant must change the glove before the start of the contest.

9 (e) Before a contestant participates in a contest, ~~he or she~~  
10 **the contestant** is weighed and placed in the appropriate weight  
11 class. The department by rule shall establish weight classes for  
12 contestants.

13 (f) An individual does not compete as a contestant unless ~~he~~  
14 ~~or she~~ **the individual** submits to the department a medical  
15 certification of negative results for hepatitis B and C and HIV  
16 tests that were performed on the ~~contestant~~ **individual** in the 180-  
17 day period ~~that precedes~~ **before** the scheduled contest or event.

18 (g) An individual does not compete as a contestant unless ~~he~~  
19 ~~or she~~ **the individual** submits to the department the results of an  
20 ophthalmologic exam that was performed by a licensed optometrist or  
21 ophthalmologist within the 12-month period ~~that precedes~~ **before** the  
22 contest or event that indicate that the ~~contestant~~ **individual** is  
23 medically cleared to fight. The individual shall submit the results  
24 on a form prescribed by the department.

25 (h) A female individual does not compete as a contestant  
26 unless ~~she~~ **the female individual** submits to the department the  
27 results of a pregnancy test that was performed on ~~her~~ **the female**  
28 **individual** in the 7-day period ~~that precedes~~ **before** the contest or  
29 event and the results of the pregnancy test are negative.

1 (i) An individual is not allowed to compete as a contestant  
2 without proper medical clearance.

3 (j) The event does not take place or continue without an  
4 ambulance that is staffed by at least 2 emergency medical  
5 technicians on the premises of the event.

6 (k) The event does not take place or continue without a  
7 physician at the event.

8 (l) The event does not take place or continue without an  
9 inspector and a trained and competent referee, judge, and  
10 timekeeper.

11 (m) An individual is not allowed to compete as a contestant if  
12 there is any reason to suspect that ~~he or she~~ **the individual** is  
13 impaired or has used or uses performance enhancing drugs.

14 (n) A professional is not allowed to compete as a contestant  
15 in an amateur contest.

16 (o) If an individual lost a contest by a technical knockout in  
17 the 30-day period ~~preceding~~ **before** the event, ~~he or she~~ **the**  
18 **individual** is not allowed to compete as a contestant unless ~~he or~~  
19 ~~she~~ **the individual** submits the results of a physical examination to  
20 the department that indicate that ~~he or she~~ **the individual** is fit  
21 to compete.

22 (p) The physician at the event determines the status of a  
23 contestant who is knocked out or whose contest is stopped by the  
24 referee. The physician may make recommendations concerning either  
25 of the following:

26 (i) The contestant's status, including, but not limited to, a  
27 recommendation to the department that the contestant not compete  
28 for a period of time specified by the physician.

29 (ii) The need for additional testing or examination of the

1 contestant, including, but not limited to, a postfight neurological  
2 examination, which may include performing computerized axial  
3 tomography (CAT) scans or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) on the  
4 contestant immediately after the contestant leaves the event venue.

5 (q) If a physician recommended that the contestant not compete  
6 for a period of time under subdivision (p) (i), that contestant does  
7 not compete in another contest during that time period.

8 (r) If a physician recommended further neurological  
9 examination of a contestant under subdivision (p) (ii), that  
10 contestant does not compete in another contest until those  
11 examinations are conducted, the promoter and department receive  
12 copies of the examination reports, and the reports demonstrate that  
13 the contestant is fit to compete.

14 (s) A contestant who sustains a severe injury or knockout in a  
15 contest is examined by a physician and is not permitted to compete  
16 in another contest until a physician certifies that the contestant  
17 is fully recovered.

18 (t) An individual who meets all of the following does not  
19 compete as a contestant:

20 (i) ~~He or she~~ **The individual** participated in multiple contests  
21 before the event.

22 (ii) In any 90-day period, ~~he or she~~ **the individual** was knocked  
23 out in 2 contests or 2 of ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** contests were  
24 stopped and a physician recommended **that the individual receive**  
25 neurological testing under subdivision (p) after any of those  
26 contests.

27 (iii) The second knockout or stoppage described in subparagraph  
28 (ii) occurred in the 120-day period ~~preceding~~ **before** the event.

29 (u) An individual who meets all of the following does not

1 compete as a contestant:

2 (i) ~~He or she~~**The individual** participated in multiple contests  
3 before the event.

4 (ii) In any 12-month period, ~~he or she~~**the individual** was  
5 knocked out in 3 consecutive contests or 3 **of the individual's**  
6 consecutive contests were stopped and a physician recommended **that**  
7 **the individual receive** neurological testing under subdivision (p)  
8 after any of those contests.

9 (iii) The third knockout or stoppage described in subparagraph  
10 (ii) occurred in the 1-year period ~~preceding~~**before** the event.

11 (v) If an individual was not allowed to compete as a  
12 contestant in an earlier event because ~~he or she~~**the individual** met  
13 the requirement of subdivision (s), (t), or (u) at the time of that  
14 earlier event, ~~he or she~~**the individual** does not compete as a  
15 contestant unless ~~he or she~~**the individual** provides the promoter  
16 **and department** with proper medical clearance.

17 (w) Each contestant is at least 18 years of age.

18 (x) A contestant does not compete in more than 1 contest at an  
19 event.

20 (y) All of the contestants in a contest are the same gender.

21 (z) An individual does not participate as a contestant if ~~he~~  
22 ~~er she~~**the individual** participated in another contest in the 7-day  
23 period ~~preceding~~**before** the event.

24 (aa) The results of each contest are reported to the  
25 department, on a form prescribed by the department, ~~within~~**not**  
26 **later than** 48 hours after the conclusion of the event. The report  
27 ~~shall~~**must** include any physician recommendations under subdivision  
28 (p). ~~Within~~**Not later than** 2 business days after it receives ~~those~~  
29 **the** results, the department shall enter ~~those~~**the** results in each

1 national contest results database selected by the department.

2 (bb) In a professional event, that tickets sold by contestants  
3 are not a factor in determining the amount of the purse.

4 (cc) If a mixed martial arts contest is a cage fight, the  
5 referee conducts a safety inspection of the cage before the  
6 contest.

7 **Sec. 54b. (1) The commission shall assign the following**  
8 **individuals to each unarmed combat event held under section 54a:**

9 (a) A referee, judge, and timekeeper to attend the event for  
10 purposes of section 54a(2) (l) .

11 (b) An inspector who meets the requirements of section 33(11)  
12 to attend the event for purposes of section 54a(2) (l) .

13 (2) A manager, promoter, matchmaker, trainer, second, or  
14 contestant shall not officiate a contest or event.

15 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 180 days  
16 after the date it is enacted into law.