- 1 SB333
- 2 209111-4
- 3 By Senator Allen
- 4 RFD: Tourism
- 5 First Read: 11-MAR-21

1	SB333
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4	ENGROSSED
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7	A BILL
8	TO BE ENTITLED
9	AN ACT
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11	Relating to the Alabama Athletic
12	amend Sections 41-9-1020, 41-9-1021, 41-9-

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Commission; to 1023, 41-9-1024, 41-9-1037, and 41-9-1038, Code of Alabama 1975; to rename the regulatory act the Alabama Unarmed Combat Act; to provide that the commission is the sole regulator of any form of unarmed combat held in the state; to authorize the commission to immediately implement certain medical guidelines and competition guidelines approved by the commission without hearings as prescribed by the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act; to authorize the commission to assess fines, not exceeding a specified amount; to provide further for the complaint, investigation, and discipline process for violators; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended by

- 1 Amendment 890, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official 2 Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: 3 Section 1. Sections 41-9-1020, 41-9-1021, 41-9-1023, 4 41-9-1024, 41-9-1037, and 41-9-1038 of the Code of Alabama 5 1975, are amended to read as follows: 6 7 "\$41-9-1020. "This article shall be known and may be cited as the 8 9 Alabama Boxing, Wrestling, and Mixed Martial Arts Unarmed 10 Combat Act. "\$41-9-1021. 11 "As used in this article, the following terms shall 12 13 have the following meanings: 14 "(1) AMATEUR. An individual who engages in a match, 15 contest, or exhibition of boxing, tough man contests, wrestling, or mixed martial arts, or other form of unarmed 16 17 combat, for no compensation or thing of value for 18 participating, which is governed or authorized by any of the following: 19 20 "a. U.S.A. Boxing. 21 "b. The Alabama High School Athletic Association. 22 "c. The National Collegiate Athletic Association. "d. Amateur Athletic Union. 23 24 "e. Golden Gloves. 25 "f. The local affiliate of any organization listed
- 27 "g. USA Wrestling.

in this subdivision.

"h. The National Junior College Athletic 1 2 Association. "i. The National Association of Intercollegiate 3 Athletics. 4 5 "j. The National Collegiate Wrestling Association. "k. Any organization licensed by the commission. 6 7 "(2) BARE KNUCKLE BOXING. The original form of boxing, involving two individuals fighting without boxing 8 gloves or other padding on their hands. 9 10 "(3) BOXING MATCH. A contest between two individuals in which contestants score points in rounds of two or three 11 minutes by striking with gloved fists the head and upper torso 12 13 of the opponent or by knocking the opponent down and rendering 14 the opponent unconscious or incapable of continuing the 15 contest by the blows, which contest is held in a square ring 16 supervised by a referee and scored by three judges. "(4) BOXING REGISTRY. A registry created or 17 18 designated pursuant to subsection (k) of Section 41-9-1024. "(5) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. An entity described by 19 2.0 either of the following: 21 "a. Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986 22 (26 U.S.C. Section §501(c)(3)). "b. Section 170(c), Internal Revenue Code of 1986 23 24 (26 U.S.C. Section §170(c)). 25 "(6) COMMISSION. The Alabama Athletic Commission. "(7) EXHIBITION. A contest where the participants 26

engage in the use of boxing skills and techniques, bare

knuckle skills and techniques, tough man skills and techniques, wrestling skills and techniques, or mixed martial arts skills and techniques, or any or all of these, and where the objective is to display the skills and techniques without striving to win.

- "(8) FACE VALUE. The dollar value of a ticket or order shall reflect the dollar amount that the customer shall pay in order to view the match, contest, exhibition, or entertainment event. Face value shall include any charges or fees, such as dinner, gratuity, parking, surcharges, or any other charges or fees which are charged to and must be paid by the customer in order to view the match, contest, exhibition, or entertainment event. It shall exclude any portion paid by the customer for federal, state, or local taxes.
 - "(9) GROSS RECEIPTS. Any of the following:
- "a. The gross price charged for the sale or lease of broadcasting, television, closed circuit, or motion picture rights without any deductions for commissions, brokerage fees, distribution fees, production fees, advertising, or other expenses or charges.
 - "b. The face value of all tickets sold.
- "(10) MANAGER. An individual who, under contract, agreement, or other arrangement with a boxer, bare knuckle boxer, or a mixed martial arts competitor, undertakes to control or administer, directly or indirectly, a matter on behalf of a boxer or a mixed martial arts competitor. The term

includes, but is not limited to, a person who functions as a booking agent, adviser, or consultant.

"(11) MATCHMAKER. A person who is employed by or associated with a promoter in the capacity of booking and arranging professional matches, contests, or exhibitions of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, or mixed martial arts between opponents or who proposes professional matches, contests, or exhibitions of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, or mixed martial arts and selects and arranges for the participants in such events and for whose activities in this regard the promoter is legally responsible.

- "(12) MIXED MARTIAL ARTS. Unarmed combat involving the use of any combination of techniques from different disciplines of the martial arts, including, without limitation, grappling, submission holds, throws, and striking or kicking with the hands, feet, knees, or elbows. The term mixed martial arts includes kickboxing.
- "(13) PERSON. An individual, partnership, firm, association, corporation, or combination of individuals of whatever form or character.
- "(14) PHYSICIAN. A doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice medicine in the State of Alabama.
- "(15) PROFESSIONAL. A person who is participating or has participated in a match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts which is

not governed or authorized by one or more of the organizations listed in subdivision (1) and any of the following:

- "a. Has received or competed for or is receiving or competing for any cash as a salary, purse, or prize for participating in any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts.
 - "b. Is participating or has participated in any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts to which admission is granted upon payment of any ticket for admission or other evidence of the right of entry.
 - "c. Is participating or has participated in any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts which is or was filmed, broadcast, or transmitted for viewing.
 - "d. Is participating or has participated in any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts which provides a commercial advantage by attracting persons to a particular place or promoting a commercial product or enterprise.
 - "(16) PROFESSIONAL MATCH OF BOXING, BARE KNUCKLE
 BOXING, WRESTLING, or MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, or UNARMED COMBAT.
 - "a. A boxing match, contest, or exhibition; a bare knuckle boxing match, contest, or exhibition; a wrestling match; or a mixed martial arts match, contest, or exhibition; or other unarmed combat match, contest, or exhibition, which is not governed or authorized by one or more of the

- organizations listed in subdivision (1) and which does any of the following:
- "1.a. Rewards a boxer, bare knuckle boxer, wrestler,

 or mixed martial arts competitor, or other unarmed combat

 competitor participating with cash as a salary, purse, or

 prize for such participation.
- 7 "2.b. Requires for admission payment of a ticket or 8 other evidence of the right of entry.
- 9 "3.c. Is filmed, broadcast, or transmitted for viewing.

"4.d. Provides a commercial advantage by attracting persons to a particular place or promoting a commercial product or enterprise.

"b. The term does not include unarmed combat.

- "(17) PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING. Any organized event between two unarmed contestants in which participants compete primarily for the purpose of providing entertainment to spectators that may or may not comprise a bona fide athletic contest or competition.
- "(18) PROMOTER. The person primarily responsible for organizing, promoting, and producing a match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, bare knuckle boxing, tough man contest, professional wrestling, or mixed martial arts and who is legally responsible for the lawful conduct of such professional match, contest, or exhibition.
- "(19) PURSE or RING EARNINGS. The financial guarantee or any other remuneration, or part thereof, which a

1	professional boxer, bare knuckle boxer, wrestler, or mixed
2	martial arts competitor participating in a match, contest, or
3	exhibition will receive and includes any share of any payment
4	received for radio broadcasting, television, or motion picture
5	rights.
6	"(20) TOUGH MAN CONTEST. A boxing match and
7	tournament where each contestant wears headgear and oversized
8	gloves. A contestant in a tough man contest is not an amateur
9	or a professional and cash prizes may be awarded.
10	"(21) UNARMED COMBAT. $\frac{1}{2}$ Any form of competition
11	between human beings in which both of the following occurs:
12	"1. One or more blows are struck which may
13	reasonably be expected to inflict injury on a human being.
14	"2. There is some compensation or commercial benefit
15	arising from such competition, whether in the form of cash or
16	non-cash payment to the competitors or the person arranging
17	the competition; the sale of the right to film, broadcast,
18	transmit, or view the competition; or the use of the
19	competition to attract persons to a particular location for
20	some commercial advantage or to promote a commercial product
21	or commercial enterprise.
22	"b. Unarmed combat does not include any of the
23	following:
24	" 1. Professional boxing.
25	" 2. Professional wrestling.
26	" 3. Amateur boxing.
27	" 4. Amateur wrestling.

Τ	"5. Any competition displaying the skills of a
2	single form of a system of unarmed self-defense, including,
3	but not limited to, kickboxing, karate, or full-contact
4	karate, which is held pursuant to the rules of that form and
5	governed or authorized by a nationally recognized
6	organization.
7	"6. Professional mixed martial arts.
8	"7. Amateur mixed martial arts.
9	"8. Tough man contests.
10	"9. Professional wrestling.
11	"10. Bare knuckle boxing.
12	" §41-9-1023.
13	"(a) There is created the Alabama Athletic
14	Commission composed of six members.
15	"(b)(1) The membership of the commission shall be
16	inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic,
17	urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state. The six
18	"(b)(1) The membership of the commission shall be
19	inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic,
20	urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state. The six
21	initial members shall be as follows:
22	"a. Two members appointed by the Governor.
23	"b. One member appointed by the Alabama Athlete
24	Agents Commission.
25	"c. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House
26	of Representatives.

"d. One member appointed by the President of the Senate.

"e. One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

"(2) Initial appointments by the Governor shall be for one and three years, the initial appointment by the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be for four years, the initial appointment of the President of the Senate shall be for two years, and the initial appointment of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be for one year. The initial appointment by the commission shall be for four years. All subsequent appointments shall be for terms of four years. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired terms under the same procedures and requirements as appointments for full terms. Each member of the commission shall be a citizen resident of this state and no two members shall be from the same congressional district at the time of appointment.

"(c) The commission shall elect a chair from among its membership for a term of one year. While serving as chair, a member may not vote on any matter coming before the commission. The commission may elect a vice chair from its membership for a term of one year. Any member serving as chair shall be eligible for successive election to the office by the commission. The chair may designate another member of the commission to perform the duties of chair in his or her absence. The commission may employ an executive director to

manage the day-to-day operations of the commission within the available funds of the commission.

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"(d) A medical advisory panel of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor and shall consist of four persons licensed to practice medicine in this state, with one member each representing the specialties of ophthalmology and general medicine and two members representing the specialty of sports medicine. The medical advisory panel shall advise and assist the commission and its staff regarding issues and questions concerning the medical safety of professional boxers, bare knuckle boxers, tough man contestants, professional wrestlers, amateur mixed martial arts competitors, and professional mixed martial arts competitors, and other unarmed combat competitors including, but not limited to, matters relating to medical suspensions. The medical advisory panel may meet separately from the commission to discuss and formulate recommendations for the commission in connection with medical safety. Members of the medical advisory panel shall not be counted in determining a quorum of the commission and shall not vote as commission members.

"(e) Each member of the commission and the medical advisory panel shall be reimbursed for expenses and travel as provided for public officials of this state.

"\$41-9-1024.

"(a)(1) The commission shall be the sole regulator of professional boxing in this state and shall have authority to protect the physical safety and welfare of professional

boxers and serve the public interest by closely supervising all professional boxing in this state.

- "(2) The commission shall be the sole regulator of professional and amateur matches, contests, or exhibitions of mixed martial arts and shall have the authority to protect the physical safety and welfare of professional competitors in mixed martial arts and serve the public interest by closely supervising all competitors in mixed martial arts. The commission shall regulate professional and amateur mixed martial arts to the same extent as professional boxing unless any rule of the commission is not by its nature applicable to mixed martial arts.
- "(3) The commission shall be the sole regulator of professional matches, contests, or exhibitions of wrestling and shall have the authority to protect the physical safety and welfare of professional competitors in professional wrestling and serve the public interest by closely supervising all competitors in professional wrestling. The commission shall regulate professional wrestling to the same extent as professional boxing unless any rule of the commission is not by its nature applicable to professional wrestling.
- "(4) The commission shall have the sole authority to license a wrestling sanctioning organization to safeguard the public health, to protect competitors, and to provide for competitive matches by requiring each licensed organization to abide by rules adopted by the commission. The commission, at the request of a licensed sanctioning organization, may

provide direct oversight of any event sanctioned by the organization for a fee negotiated between the commission and the licensed sanctioning organization.

- "(5) The commission shall have the sole authority to license the promoters of tough man contests to safeguard the public health, to protect competitors, and to provide for competitive matches by requiring each licensed promoter to abide by rules adopted by the commission. The commission, at the request of a promoter, may provide direct oversight of any tough man match for a fee negotiated between the commission and the promoter.
- "(6) The commission shall be the sole regulator of professional bare knuckle boxing matches, contests, or exhibitions of bare knuckle boxing and shall have the authority to protect the physical safety and welfare of professional competitors in bare knuckle boxing and serve the public interest by closely supervising all competitors in bare knuckle boxing. The commission shall regulate professional bare knuckle boxing to the same extent as professional boxing unless any rule of the commission is not by its nature applicable to bare knuckle boxing.
- "(7) The commission shall be the sole regulator and shall have the sole authority to regulate any form of unarmed combat held in the state as the commission deems necessary.
- "(b) The commission shall have the sole jurisdiction to license the promotion or holding of each match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, bare knuckle boxing, tough

man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts, or other form of unarmed combat promoted or held within this state.

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"(c) The commission shall have the authority to license participants in any match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts, or other form of unarmed combat held in this state.

"(d) The commission shall have the authority to direct, manage, control, and supervise all matches, contests, or exhibitions of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts including, but not limited to, the authority to enforce safety measures and restrict access to certain areas for the protection of the public and participants. The commission may adopt bylaws for its own management and adopt and enforce rules consistent with this article. The commission may immediately implement medical guidelines, that have been vetted by the medical advisory panel and approved by the commission, and competition guidelines, that have been approved by the commission. Medical and competition guidelines approved by the commission pursuant to this subdivision are exempt from the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.

"(e) The commission shall have the sole authority to inquire into the plans or arrangements for compliance of a

- licensed organization with rules adopted by the commission.
- 2 The commission may require a wrestling sanctioning
- 3 organization to pay an annual licensure fee and any other fee
- 4 determined necessary by the board and may penalize any
- 5 organization for violation of this article or any rule adopted
- 6 by the commission pursuant to this article.
- 7 "(f) The commission may appoint one or more
- 8 inspectors as duly authorized representatives of the
- 9 commission to ensure that the rules are strictly observed. The
- inspectors shall be present at all professional matches,
- 11 contests, or exhibitions of boxing, bare knuckle boxing,
- 12 wrestling, or mixed martial arts.
- "(g) The commission may designate physicians as duly
- authorized representatives of the commission to conduct
- physical examinations of boxers, bare knuckle boxers, or mixed
- martial arts competitors licensed under this article and shall
- 17 designate a roster of physicians authorized to conduct
- 18 prefight physicals and serve as ringside physicians in all
- 19 professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough
- 20 man, or mixed martial arts matches held in this state.
- "(h)(1) The commission or any agent duly designated
- 22 by the commission may do any of the following:
- "a. Make investigations.
- "b. Hold hearings.
- 25 "c. Issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of
- witnesses and the production of books, papers, and records.

"d. Administer oaths to and examine any witnesses for the purpose of determining any question coming before it under this article or under the rules adopted pursuant to this article.

"e. Swear out a warrant of arrest against any person violating the criminal provisions of this article, and the commission shall not be liable in damages or to any action for damages by reason of swearing out a warrant or for causing the arrest and detention or imprisonment of any person under such warrant, unless the commission or agent fails to act in a reasonably prudent manner.

- "f. Assess fines, not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation, for violations of the rules and guidelines of the commission.
- "(2) During an investigation of any allegation which, if proven, would result in criminal or civil sanctions as provided in this article, the commission may withhold all or a portion of the gross receipts to which the person under investigation is entitled until such time as the matter has been resolved.
- "(i) The commission may engage in activities that promote amateur boxing, amateur wrestling, and amateur mixed martial arts in this state and contract with any nonprofit organization which is exempted from the taxation of income. To support amateur boxing, amateur wrestling, and amateur mixed martial arts in this state, the commission may promote voluntary contributions through the application process or

through any fund-raising or other promotional technique deemed appropriate by the commission.

- "(j) Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. Section 6301, et seq., the commission may issue to each boxer who is a resident of this state an identification card bearing the photograph of the boxer and in such form and containing such information as the commission deems necessary and appropriate. The commission shall ensure that the form and manner of issuance of the identification cards comply with any applicable federal law or regulation. The commission may charge an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per card for the issuance or replacement of each identification card.
- "(k) The commission may create a boxing registry or designate a nationally recognized boxing registry and register each boxer who is a resident of this state or who is a resident of another state which has no boxing registry.
- "(1) The commission may inquire into the financial backing of any professional match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, bare knuckle boxing, wrestling, or mixed martial arts and obtain answers to written or oral questions propounded to all persons associated with the professional event.
- "(m) The commission, pursuant to rule, may license any concessionaire, ring announcer, photographer, or other person receiving any portion of the gate proceeds from a match, contest, or exhibition held in the state pursuant to this article.

27 "\$41-9-1037.

"The commission shall have jurisdiction over any match, contest, or exhibition of professional boxing, professional bare knuckle boxing, tough man contests, professional wrestling, amateur mixed martial arts, or professional mixed martial arts, or other form of unarmed combat which occurs or is held within this state, is filmed in this state, or is broadcast or transmitted from this state.

"\$41-9-1038.

"(a) The Attorney General may bring a civil action

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requesting relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order, against any person who he or she believes is violating Section 41-9-1029, 41-9-1030, 41-9-1031, 41-9-1032, 41-9-1033, 41-9-1034, 41-9-1035, or 41-9-1037.

"(b) (1) Any manager, promoter, matchmaker, or licensee who knowingly violates or coerces or causes any other person to violate Section 41-9-1030, 41-9-1031, 41-9-1032, 41-9-1033, 41-9-1034, 41-9-1035, 41-9-1036, or 41-9-1037 shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class C felony.

"(2) Any member or employee of the commission or any person who administers or enforces this article or rules adopted pursuant to this article who knowingly violates

Section 41-9-1033 or 41-9-1034 shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class C felony.

"(3) Any professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, professional wrestler, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional

competitor in mixed martial arts who knowingly violates this article, except Section 41-9-1034, shall, upon conviction, be quilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

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"(4) Any professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, professional wrestler, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional competitor in mixed martial arts who violates Section 41-9-1034 may be punished by a civil fine not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) together with a percentage of the purse not to exceed 15 percent for each violation.

"(a) Any person may file a written and signed complaint with the commission alleging that any other person has violated any provision of Sections 41-9-1029 to 41-9-1037, inclusive. A complaint shall be made in the manner prescribed by the board and shall be referred by the commission to a standing investigative committee, consisting of a commission member, the executive director, the attorney for the commission, and an investigator or the chief inspector of the commission. If the investigative committee finds that no probable cause exists, the investigative committee may dismiss the charges and prepare a statement in writing, detailing the reasons for the decision.

"(b) (1) If the investigative committee finds that probable cause exists, the commission shall initiate an administrative proceeding. If the commission determines a person has violated any provision of Sections 41-9-1029 to

1	41-9-1037, inclusive, the commission may do any of the
2	<pre>following:</pre>
3	"a. Issue a cease and desist order.
4	"b. Suspend or revoke a license.
5	"c. Impose an administrative fine of not more than
6	ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation.
7	"(2) The commission may petition the circuit court
8	of the county where the violation occurred to enforce a cease
9	and desist order and to collect any assessed fine.
10	" (c) A person who participates in or promotes
11	unarmed combat shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.
12	"(c) The criminal penalties in this section shall
13	not be construed to repeal other criminal laws. Whenever
14	conduct prescribed by this article is also prescribed by other
15	provision of law, the provision which carries the more serious
16	penalty shall be applied.
17	"(d) Any person aggrieved by an adverse action of
18	the commission may appeal the action to the Circuit Court of
19	Montgomery County in accordance with the Alabama
20	Administrative Procedure Act."
21	Section 2. Although this bill would have as its
22	purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased
23	expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further
24	requirements and application under Amendment 621, as amended
25	by Amendment 890, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the
26	Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901,

- as amended, because the bill defines a new crime or amends the
- 2 definition of an existing crime.
- 3 Section 3. This act shall become effective
- 4 immediately following its passage and approval by the
- 5 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

Senate		
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Read for the third time and passe	d as amended 0.8-APR-2	21
Yeas 30 Nays 0		
	Read for the first time and refer committee on Tourism Read for the second time and placed ar 1 amendment Read for the third time and passed Yeas 30 Nays 0	Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Tourism