

House Bill 602

By: Representative Ridley of the 6th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4B of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission, so as to provide for the regulation of bare
3 knuckle boxing matches; to provide for definitions; to authorize the commission to
4 promulgate rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective
5 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 4B of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to Georgia
9 Athletic and Entertainment Commission, is amended in Code Section 43-4B-1, relating to
10 definitions, by adding a new paragraph and by revising paragraph (2) and subparagraph (C)
11 of paragraph (20) as follows:

12 “(1.1) 'Bare knuckle boxing match' means combat between two individuals in which
13 contestants score points in rounds of two or three minutes by striking with wrapped
14 hands, but without padded fists, the head and upper torso of the opponent or by knocking
15 the opponent down and rendering the opponent unconscious or incapable of continuing

16 the contest by such blows, which contest is held in a ring supervised by a referee and
17 scored by three judges.

18 (2) 'Boxing match' means a contest between two individuals in which contestants score
19 points in rounds of two or three minutes by striking with padded fists the head and upper
20 torso of the opponent or by knocking the opponent down and rendering the opponent
21 unconscious or incapable of continuing the contest by such blows, which contest is held
22 in a square ring supervised by a referee and scored by three judges. Such term shall not
23 include a bare knuckle boxing match."

24 "(C) Unarmed combat shall not include:

25 (i) Professional boxing licensed in accordance with this chapter;

26 (ii) Professional wrestling governed or authorized by an organization licensed or
27 exempted from licensure in accordance with this chapter;

28 (iii) Amateur boxing governed or authorized by an organization listed in paragraph
29 (1) of this Code section;

30 (iv) Amateur wrestling governed or authorized by an organization listed in
31 paragraph (1) of this Code section;

32 (v) Any competition displaying the skills of a single form of an Oriental system of
33 unarmed combative sports or unarmed combative entertainment, including, but not
34 limited to, kickboxing, karate, or full-contact karate, that is held pursuant to the rules
35 of that form and governed or authorized by an organization licensed by the
36 commission in accordance with Article 4 of this chapter;

37 (vi) Shidokan when the competition is governed or authorized by an organization
38 licensed by the commission in accordance with Article 4 of this chapter;

39 (vii) Mixed martial arts fighting when the competition is governed or authorized by
40 an organization licensed by the commission in accordance with Article 4 of this
41 chapter; or

42 (viii) Other martial arts competitions, when governed or authorized by an
43 organization licensed by the commission in accordance with Article 4 of this chapter;
44 or
45 (ix) Any bare knuckle boxing match."

46 SECTION 2.

47 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

48 "43-4B-18.1.

49 (a) For purposes of this Code section, the term 'qualifying experience' means that an
50 individual has competed in a match, contest, or exhibition of boxing, kickboxing, martial
51 arts, or wrestling for cash as a salary, purse, or prize for such participation.

52 (b) The commission shall have jurisdiction over any bare knuckle boxing match which
53 occurs or is held within this state, is filmed in this state, or is broadcast or transmitted in
54 this state.

55 (c) Only an individual that has qualifying experience may participate in a bare knuckle
56 boxing match.

57 (d) Contestants in a bare knuckle boxing match shall be prohibited from strikes with any
58 part of the body other than the hands.

59 (e) Contestants in a bare knuckle boxing match may be allowed, at the discretion of the
60 referee, to clinch one another while standing, provided that striking is active.

61 (f) The commission shall have the authority to license organizations that govern, authorize,
62 and promote bare knuckle boxing matches, to inquire as to compliance, to require license
63 and match fees, and to enforce noncompliance and violations.

64 (g) The commission shall have the duty to safeguard the public health, protect competitors,
65 and provide for competitive matches by determining basic minimum medical and safety
66 requirements based on the nature of the activity and the anticipated level of physical
67 conditioning and training of competitors in bare knuckle boxing matches.

68 (h) In addition to the powers and duties set out in this article, the commission is authorized
69 to promulgate rules and regulations to accomplish the purposes of this Code section in
70 accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act,' and
71 to enforce the provisions of this Code section."

72 **SECTION 3.**

73 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
74 without such approval.

75 **SECTION 4.**

76 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.