

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 393**

Introduced by Larson, 40.

Read first time January 13, 2017

Committee:

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the State Athletic Commissioner; to amend  
2 sections 81-8,134 and 81-8,138, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
3 Nebraska, and sections 81-8,129, 81-8,130.01, 81-8,132, 81-8,133,  
4 81-8,133.01, 81-8,135, and 81-8,139, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
5 Supplement, 2016; to authorize the regulation of kickboxing; to  
6 harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 81-8,129, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
2 2016, is amended to read:

3 81-8,129 The State Athletic Commissioner shall have sole direction,  
4 management, control, and jurisdiction over all professional mixed martial  
5 arts, professional boxing, professional kickboxing, and professional  
6 sparring matches and exhibitions and all amateur mixed martial arts  
7 matches and amateur kickboxing matches and exhibitions to be held within  
8 the state, except such as are conducted by universities, colleges, high  
9 schools, the military, and recognized amateur associations for  
10 contestants under sixteen years of age. No professional boxers,  
11 professional mixed martial arts contestants, professional kickboxers, or  
12 amateur mixed martial arts contestants or amateur kickboxers who have  
13 attained the age of sixteen, shall participate in a match or exhibition  
14 for a prize or purse, or at which an admission fee is charged, either  
15 directly or indirectly, in the form of dues or otherwise, in this state  
16 except by a club, association, organization, or person licensed by the  
17 commissioner, as provided in section 81-8,130, and in pursuance of a  
18 license granted by the commissioner for such match or exhibition under  
19 section 81-8,130.01.

20 Sec. 2. Section 81-8,130.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
21 2016, is amended to read:

22 81-8,130.01 Licenses and permits may be issued to professional mixed  
23 martial arts, professional kickboxing, or professional boxing promoters,  
24 whether persons, clubs, or associations, for the sole purpose of  
25 conducting professional matches under such rules and regulations as the  
26 State Athletic Commissioner shall adopt. Each application for such  
27 license shall be accompanied by a fee set by the commissioner in rule and  
28 regulation. Such fee shall be not less than one hundred dollars and not  
29 more than three hundred dollars. If the promoter is an individual, the  
30 application shall include his or her social security number.

31 Sec. 3. Section 81-8,132, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2016, is amended to read:

2 81-8,132 No license shall be granted unless the licensee has  
3 executed a bond in the sum of not less than one thousand dollars in the  
4 case of amateur mixed martial arts or amateur kickboxing, nor less than  
5 five thousand dollars in the case of professional mixed martial arts,  
6 professional kickboxing, or professional boxing. The license shall be  
7 approved by the State Athletic Commissioner, conditioned on the faithful  
8 compliance by the licensee with the provisions of sections 81-8,129 to  
9 81-8,142.01, the rules and regulations of the commissioner, and such  
10 other laws of the state as may be applicable to anything done by the  
11 licensee in pursuance of the license.

12 Sec. 4. Section 81-8,133, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
13 2016, is amended to read:

14 81-8,133 The State Athletic Commissioner is authorized to grant  
15 licenses to competent referees, upon an application and the payment of a  
16 fee set by the commissioner in rule and regulation. Such fee shall be not  
17 less than ten dollars and not more than forty dollars per annum. The  
18 commissioner may revoke any license so granted for such cause as may be  
19 deemed sufficient. At every professional boxing, professional mixed  
20 martial arts, amateur mixed martial arts, professional kickboxing,  
21 amateur kickboxing, or professional sparring match or exhibition, there  
22 shall be in attendance a duly licensed referee, who shall direct and  
23 control the match. The referee shall stop the match whenever he or she  
24 deems it advisable, (1) because of the physical condition of the  
25 contestants or one of them, (2) when one of the contestants is clearly  
26 outclassed by his or her opponent, or (3) for any other sufficient  
27 reason. The referee shall, at the termination of every professional  
28 boxing, professional mixed martial arts, amateur mixed martial arts,  
29 professional kickboxing, amateur kickboxing, or professional sparring  
30 match or exhibition, indicate a winner. The fees of the referee and other  
31 licensed officials may be fixed by the commissioner and shall be paid by

1 the licensed organization.

2 Sec. 5. Section 81-8,133.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
3 2016, is amended to read:

4 81-8,133.01 The State Athletic Commissioner may grant licenses to  
5 qualified physicians, managers, matchmakers, and professional mixed  
6 martial arts, professional boxing, professional kickboxing, or  
7 professional sparring match or exhibition judges upon an application and  
8 payment of an annual fee set by the commissioner in rule and regulation.  
9 Such fee for matchmakers shall be not less than ten dollars and not more  
10 than one hundred dollars. Such fee for physicians, managers, and  
11 professional mixed martial arts, professional boxing, professional  
12 kickboxing, or professional sparring match or exhibition judges shall be  
13 not less than ten dollars and not more than twenty dollars. The  
14 commissioner may also grant licenses to qualified timekeepers,  
15 contestants, and seconds upon an application and payment of an annual fee  
16 set by the commissioner in rule and regulation. Such fee shall be not  
17 less than ten dollars and not more than twenty dollars. The application  
18 shall include the applicant's social security number. No person shall  
19 serve as physician, manager, matchmaker, or judge at any professional  
20 mixed martial arts, professional boxing, professional kickboxing, or  
21 professional sparring match or exhibition who is not licensed as such. No  
22 person shall serve as timekeeper or contestant at any professional mixed  
23 martial arts, professional kickboxing, or professional boxing match who  
24 is not licensed as such. The commissioner shall have summary authority to  
25 stop any match at which any person is serving in violation of the  
26 provisions of this section. Any license granted under the provisions of  
27 this section may be revoked for cause.

28 Sec. 6. Section 81-8,134, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
29 amended to read:

30 81-8,134 (1) Any professional boxing match, professional mixed  
31 martial arts match, ~~or~~ amateur mixed martial arts match, professional

1 kickboxing match, or amateur kickboxing match conducted in this state  
2 which is labeled or promoted as a championship ~~boxing match or a~~  
3 ~~championship mixed martial arts~~ match shall have regional or national  
4 significance and the approval of a nationally recognized professional  
5 boxing, ~~or mixed martial arts,~~ or kickboxing association.

6 (2) Professional boxing or professional sparring matches or  
7 exhibitions shall not exceed ten rounds in length, except in a  
8 championship match, which shall not exceed fifteen rounds. No round shall  
9 be longer than three minutes. At least one minute shall intervene between  
10 rounds. The contestants shall wear during the contest gloves weighing at  
11 least eight ounces each.

12 (3) Professional mixed martial arts matches or exhibitions shall not  
13 exceed three rounds in length, except in a championship match, which  
14 shall not exceed five rounds in length. No round shall be longer than  
15 five minutes. At least one minute shall intervene between rounds.

16 (4) No professional boxing contestant, professional mixed martial  
17 arts contestant, ~~or amateur mixed martial arts contestant,~~ professional  
18 kickboxing contestant, or amateur kickboxing contestant shall be allowed  
19 to participate or take part in any contest in this state unless a duly  
20 licensed physician shall certify in writing that such contestant has  
21 taken a physical examination the day of the contest and is physically fit  
22 to engage in the proposed contest.

23 Sec. 7. Section 81-8,135, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
24 2016, is amended to read:

25 81-8,135 Every licensee conducting or holding any professional mixed  
26 martial arts, amateur mixed martial arts, professional kickboxing,  
27 amateur kickboxing, or professional boxing match shall furnish to the  
28 State Athletic Commissioner a written report showing the articles of  
29 agreement between the contestants, the number of tickets sold for each  
30 contest, the amount of the gross receipts thereof, the gross receipts  
31 from sale of any television rights, and such other matters as the

1 commissioner shall prescribe. Within such time the licensee shall pay to  
2 the commissioner a tax of five percent of the total gross receipts of any  
3 professional mixed martial arts, professional kickboxing, or professional  
4 boxing match or exhibition, exclusive of state and federal taxes, except  
5 the gross receipts from sale of television rights, and five percent of  
6 such rights, and five percent of the total gross receipts of any amateur  
7 mixed martial arts or amateur kickboxing match or exhibition, exclusive  
8 of state and federal taxes, except that if such match or exhibition is  
9 conducted as an incidental feature in any event or entertainment of a  
10 different character, such portion of the total receipts shall be paid to  
11 the state as the commissioner may determine, or as may be fixed by rule  
12 adopted under section 81-8,139.

13 Sec. 8. Section 81-8,138, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
14 amended to read:

15 81-8,138 No contestant in any match or exhibition shall be paid for  
16 services until the same are rendered, and should it be determined by the  
17 State Athletic Commissioner that a contestant did not give an honest  
18 exhibition of his or her skill, he or she shall not be paid. Any  
19 contestant who shall participate in any sham or fake professional boxing,  
20 professional mixed martial arts, ~~or~~ amateur mixed martial arts,  
21 professional kickboxing, or amateur kickboxing match or exhibition shall  
22 be disqualified and shall not thereafter be permitted to contend in any  
23 match or exhibition in this state, and any contestant who shall  
24 participate in any sham or fake professional boxing, professional mixed  
25 martial arts, ~~or~~ amateur mixed martial arts, professional kickboxing, or  
26 amateur kickboxing match or exhibition shall be guilty of a violation of  
27 sections 81-8,128 to 81-8,142.01.

28 Sec. 9. Section 81-8,139, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
29 2016, is amended to read:

30 81-8,139 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section,  
31 the State Athletic Commissioner shall adopt and promulgate such rules and

1 regulations for the administration and enforcement of sections 81-8,128  
2 to 81-8,142.01 as he or she may deem necessary. Such rules and  
3 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the establishment of  
4 written criteria for the granting and revoking of licenses, the setting  
5 of license fees, and the qualification requirements for those to be  
6 licensed as referees, physicians, managers, matchmakers, and professional  
7 boxing, professional mixed martial arts, professional kickboxing, or  
8 professional sparring match or exhibition judges. He or she shall have  
9 the power and may control and limit the number of professional mixed  
10 martial arts, amateur mixed martial arts, professional boxing,  
11 professional kickboxing, amateur kickboxing, or professional sparring  
12 matches or exhibitions given, or to be held, each year, or within one  
13 week, in any city or town, or by any organization. He or she may fine any  
14 licensee, except amateur contestants, an amount not to exceed one  
15 thousand dollars and may suspend for a period, not to exceed one year,  
16 any licensee's right to participate in or conduct any match or exhibition  
17 for unsportsmanlike conduct while engaged in or arising directly from any  
18 match or exhibition, failure to compete in good faith, engaging in any  
19 sham match or exhibition, or the use of threatening and abusive language  
20 toward officials, other contestants, or spectators.

21 (2) The State Athletic Commissioner may adopt and promulgate rules  
22 and regulations to identify a list of substances banned for use by any  
23 amateur or professional contestant and may require any contestant to  
24 submit to a test for banned substances as a condition for allowing the  
25 contestant's participation in a match or exhibition.

26 (3) The State Athletic Commissioner may suspend an amateur or  
27 professional contestant from competition for a period not to exceed one  
28 year and may fine a professional contestant an amount not to exceed one  
29 thousand five hundred dollars or forty percent of the prize or purse,  
30 whichever is greater, for a first offense of failing a test for a banned  
31 substance on the list developed pursuant to subsection (2) of this

1 section or for refusing to submit to such a test. He or she may suspend  
2 an amateur or professional contestant from competition for a period not  
3 to exceed three years and may fine a professional contestant an amount  
4 not to exceed three thousand dollars or seventy percent of the prize or  
5 purse, whichever is greater, for any second such offense. He or she may  
6 suspend an amateur or professional contestant from competition for life  
7 and may fine a professional contestant an amount not to exceed five  
8 thousand dollars or one hundred percent of the prize or purse, whichever  
9 is greater, for any third or subsequent such offense. For purposes of  
10 determining if an offense under this subsection is a first, second,  
11 third, or subsequent offense, failing a test for banned substances and  
12 refusing to submit to such a test shall be considered the same offense.

13 (4) Before levying an administrative fine pursuant to this section,  
14 the State Athletic Commissioner shall set the matter for hearing.  
15 Proceedings to levy an administrative fine shall be contested cases  
16 prosecuted and appealable pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.  
17 At least ten days before the hearing, the State Athletic Commissioner  
18 shall serve notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing upon the  
19 licensee or other violator by personal or certified mail service.

20 (5) The State Athletic Commissioner shall remit any administrative  
21 fines collected under this section to the State Treasurer for  
22 distribution in accordance with Article VII, section 5, of the  
23 Constitution of Nebraska.

24 Sec. 10. For purposes of sections 81-8,128 to 81-8,142.01,  
25 kickboxing means an unarmed combat sport in which strikes are delivered  
26 with fists, hands, feet, and legs and includes, but is not limited to,  
27 the sport of Muay Thai.

28 Sec. 11. Original sections 81-8,134 and 81-8,138, Reissue Revised  
29 Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 81-8,129, 81-8,130.01, 81-8,132,  
30 81-8,133, 81-8,133.01, 81-8,135, and 81-8,139, Revised Statutes  
31 Cumulative Supplement, 2016, are repealed.