

MAR 6 2006

WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE FILE 2646
BY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
REGULATION AND LABOR

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 543)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the regulation of professional unarmed combat
2 fighting, prohibiting amateur unarmed combat fighting, and
3 providing for fees and penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2646

1 Section 1. Section 90A.1, Code 2005, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. "Boxing" or "wrestling" means any
4 kind of boxing, wrestling, or unarmed combat fighting activity
5 that is considered a professional match or activity as set
6 forth in subsection 5.

7 Sec. 2. Section 90A.1, subsection 5, Code 2005, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 5. "Professional boxing or wrestling match" means a boxing
10 or wrestling or professional unarmed combat fighting contest
11 or exhibition open to the public in this state for which the
12 contestants are paid or awarded a prize for their
13 participation.

14 Sec. 3. Section 90A.1, Code 2005, is amended by adding the
15 following new subsection:

16 NEW SUBSECTION. 5A. "Professional unarmed combat
17 fighting" means mixed martial arts fighting, extreme fighting,
18 ultimate fighting, or shoot fighting.

19 Sec. 4. Section 90A.2, subsection 1, Code 2005, is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 1. A person shall not act as a promoter of a professional
22 boxing or wrestling or professional unarmed combat fighting
23 match, contest, event, or exhibition without first obtaining a
24 license from the commissioner. This subsection shall not
25 apply to a person distributing a closed-circuit, pay-per-view,
26 or similarly distributed signal to a person acting as a
27 promoter or to a person viewing the signal in a private
28 residence.

29 Sec. 5. Section 90A.2, Code 2005, is amended by adding the
30 following new subsection:

31 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. Each application for a professional
32 unarmed combat fighting license presented by a promoter shall
33 be accompanied by a one thousand dollar license fee. Fees
34 collected under this subsection shall be considered repayment
35 receipts and shall be used for payment of expenses to

1 administer and regulate unarmed combat fighting contests,
2 matches, events, and exhibitions.

3 Sec. 6. Section 90A.3, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2005, are
4 amended to read as follows:

5 1. Each professional boxer and professional unarmed combat
6 fighter residing in Iowa shall register with the commissioner.
7 The registration application shall be in the form prescribed
8 by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by the fee
9 established by rule by the commissioner. The commissioner
10 shall establish by rule a registration fee of not less than
11 one hundred dollars for any unarmed combat fighter seeking to
12 participate in a professional unarmed combat fighting match,
13 contest, event, or exhibition held in Iowa. The registration
14 information required by the commissioner shall include, but is
15 not limited to, the following:

16 a. The boxer's or professional unarmed combat fighter's
17 name and address.

18 b. The boxer's or professional unarmed combat fighter's
19 gender.

20 c. The boxer's or professional unarmed combat fighter's
21 date of birth.

22 d. The boxer's or professional unarmed combat fighter's
23 social security number or, if a foreign boxer or professional
24 unarmed combat fighter, any similar citizen identification
25 number or professional boxer or professional unarmed combat
26 fighter number from the country of residence of the boxer or
27 professional unarmed combat fighter.

28 e. The boxer's personal identification number assigned to
29 the boxer by a professional boxing registry certified by the
30 association of boxing commissions if the boxer is registered
31 with a registry. If a professional unarmed combat fighter
32 registering with the commissioner pursuant to this section has
33 been assigned a personal identification number by a
34 professional unarmed combat fighter registry certified by a
35 professional unarmed combat fighter association or commission,

1 the professional unarmed combat fighter shall submit to the
2 commissioner the identification number assigned to the
3 professional unarmed combat fighter by the registry.

4 f. Two copies of a recent photograph of the boxer or
5 professional unarmed combat fighter.

6 g. An official government-issued photo identification
7 containing the boxer's or professional unarmed combat
8 fighter's photograph and social security number or similar
9 foreign identification number.

10 2. The commissioner shall issue an identification card to
11 a boxer or professional unarmed combat fighter registered
12 pursuant to this chapter. The identification card shall
13 contain a recent photograph, the boxer's or professional
14 unarmed combat fighter's social security number or similar
15 foreign identification number, and a personal identification
16 number assigned to the boxer by a boxing registry or a
17 personal identification number assigned the professional
18 unarmed combat fighter if the professional unarmed combat
19 fighter submitted such a number to the commissioner in
20 accordance with subsection 1, paragraph "e".

21 Sec. 7. Section 90A.5, subsection 1, paragraphs c through
22 h, Code 2005, are amended to read as follows:

23 c. A boxer or professional unarmed combat fighter fails to
24 pass a prefight physical examination.

25 d. A match promoter permits a nonregistered boxer or
26 professional unarmed combat fighter to participate in a
27 professional boxing or professional unarmed combat fighting
28 match.

29 e. A match promoter permits a person whose license,
30 registration, or authority, issued pursuant to this chapter,
31 is under suspension to participate in a boxing or professional
32 unarmed combat fighting event.

33 f. A match promoter, or professional boxer, or
34 professional unarmed combat fighter is under suspension by any
35 other state boxing or professional unarmed combat fighting

1 regulatory organization.

2 g. A match promoter, or professional boxer, or
3 professional unarmed combat fighter is under suspension in any
4 state.

5 h. A match promoter, professional boxer, professional
6 unarmed combat fighter, or participant is in violation of
7 rules adopted pursuant to section 90A.7.

8 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 90A.13 ATTENDANCE AGE REQUIREMENTS.

9 Attendance at any professional boxing or wrestling match is
10 limited to individuals eighteen years of age or older.

11 However, if liquor or beer is sold or served on the premises
12 in which the match is held, attendance at any professional
13 boxing or wrestling match is limited to individuals twenty-one
14 years of age or older.

15 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 90A.14 AMATEUR UNARMED COMBAT
16 FIGHTING PROHIBITED -- PENALTY.

17 1. Amateur unarmed combat fighting contests, matches,
18 events, or exhibitions are prohibited in this state.

19 2. A person who acts as an amateur unarmed combat fighting
20 match promoter in violation of this section is subject to a
21 civil penalty of twenty thousand dollars per violation.

22 3. As used in this section:

23 a. "Amateur unarmed combat fighting" means mixed martial
24 arts activities which include shoot fighting, extreme
25 fighting, and ultimate fighting.

26 b. "Amateur unarmed combat fighting promoter" means a
27 person or business that does at least one of the following:

28 (1) Organizes, holds, advertises, or otherwise conducts an
29 amateur unarmed combat fighting match.

30 (2) Charges admission for the viewing of an amateur
31 unarmed combat fighting match received through a closed-
32 circuit, pay-per-view, or similarly distributed signal.

33 EXPLANATION

34 This bill defines "boxing" or "wrestling", for purposes of
35 Code chapter 90A, which regulates boxing and wrestling, as any

1 kind of boxing, wrestling, or unarmed combat fighting activity
2 that is considered a professional match or activity. The bill
3 places professional unarmed combat fighting under the
4 regulatory authority of the labor commissioner.

5 The bill defines "professional unarmed combat fighting" as
6 mixed martial arts fighting, extreme fighting, ultimate
7 fighting, or shoot fighting. The bill requires a person who
8 promotes such fighting to obtain a license from the
9 commissioner and to pay a \$1,000 licensing fee. Professional
10 unarmed combatants must register with the commissioner and pay
11 a registration fee of not less than \$100.

12 Persons who attend a professional boxing or wrestling match
13 must be 18 years or older, or 21 years or older if liquor or
14 beer is sold or served on the match premises.

15 Amateur unarmed combat fighting contests of any sort are
16 prohibited. Anyone who promotes such a contest is subject to
17 a civil penalty of \$20,000 per violation.

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SF 2646

HSB 543

WILDERDYKE, CH
MAY
JACOBY

COMMERCE, REGULATION & LABOR

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BILL)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act excluding ultimate and extreme fighting from regulation as
2 boxing or wrestling contests.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 90A.1, Code 2005, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. "Boxing" or "wrestling" means the
4 traditional form of boxing or wrestling and shall not include
5 fight contests or exhibitions commonly known as ultimate or
6 extreme fighting, as determined by the commissioner.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill defines "boxing" or "wrestling", for purposes of
9 Code chapter 90A, which regulates boxing and wrestling, as the
10 traditional forms of these sports. The bill also excludes
11 from the definition fight contests or exhibitions commonly
12 known as ultimate or extreme fighting, as determined by the
13 labor commissioner, therefore excluding these contests or
14 exhibitions from the labor commissioner's regulation.

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Iowa Workforce Development

Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor

Sally J. Pederson, Lt. Governor

Richard V. Running, Director

Putting Iowa
to Work®

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 10, 2006

To: General Assembly

From: Jane S. Barto, Deputy Director
Iowa Workforce Development
515-281-5082

RE: LSB #5399DP – An Act excluding ultimate and extreme fighting from regulation as boxing or wrestling contests.

The Labor Commissioner has enforcement authority pursuant to Iowa Code 90A to issue licenses for “boxing” and “wrestling” matches. This bill defines “boxing” and “wrestling” as the traditional forms of those sports, and deletes from that definition fight contests or exhibitions commonly known as “extreme” or “ultimate” fighting, as determined by the Commissioner.

Extreme or ultimate fighting events involve far less traditional rules and safeguards than traditional boxing and wrestling and are viewed as posing greater liability to the State for potential injuries. The Attorney General’s Office agreed to this definition change.

