
HOUSE BILL 2388

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, MacEwen, Stanford, Rossetti, and Bergquist

Read first time 01/12/16. Referred to Committee on Business & Financial Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to theatrical wrestling; amending RCW 67.08.100
2 and 67.08.160; reenacting and amending RCW 67.08.002; adding a new
3 section to chapter 67.08 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 67.08.002 and 2012 c 99 s 1 are each reenacted and
6 amended to read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Amateur" means a person who has never received nor competed
10 for any purse or other article of value, either for expenses of
11 training or for participating in an event, other than a prize of
12 fifty dollars in value or less.

13 (2) "Amateur event" means an event in which all the participants
14 are "amateurs" and which is registered and sanctioned by:

15 (a) United States Amateur Boxing, Inc.;

16 (b) Washington Interscholastic Activities Association;

17 (c) National Collegiate Athletic Association;

18 (d) Amateur Athletic Union;

19 (e) Golden Gloves of America;

20 (f) Any similar organization nationally recognized by the United
21 States Olympic Committee;

1 (g) United Full Contact Federation and any similar amateur
2 sanctioning organization, recognized and licensed by the department
3 as exclusively or primarily dedicated to advancing the sport of
4 amateur mixed martial arts, as those sports are defined in this
5 section and where the promoter, officials, and participants are
6 licensed under this chapter; or

7 (h) Local affiliate of any organization identified in (a) through
8 (f) of this subsection.

9 (3) "Boxing" means the sport of attack and defense which uses the
10 contestants fists and where the contestants compete with the intent
11 not to injure or disable an opponent, but to win by decision,
12 knockout, or technical knockout, but does not include professional
13 wrestling.

14 (4) "Chiropractor" means a person licensed under chapter 18.25
15 RCW as a doctor of chiropractic or under the laws of any jurisdiction
16 in which that person resides.

17 (5) "Combative fighting," also known as "toughman fighting,"
18 "toughwoman fighting," "badman fighting," and "so you think you're
19 tough," means a contest, exhibition, or match between contestants who
20 use their fists, with or without gloves, or their feet, or both, and
21 which allows contestants that are not trained in the sport to compete
22 and the object is to defeat an opponent or to win by decision,
23 knockout, or technical knockout.

24 (6) "Department" means the department of licensing.

25 (7) "Director" means the director of the department of licensing
26 or the director's designee.

27 (8) "Elimination tournament" means any contest in which
28 contestants compete in a series of matches until not more than one
29 contestant remains in any weight category. The term does not include
30 any event that complies with the provisions of RCW 67.08.015(2).

31 (9) "Event" includes, but is not limited to, a professional
32 boxing, wrestling, or martial arts or an amateur mixed martial arts
33 contest, sparring, fisticuffs, match, show, or exhibition.

34 (10) "Event chiropractor" means the chiropractor licensed under
35 RCW 67.08.100 and who is operating in a supporting role to the event
36 physician who is responsible for the activities described in RCW
37 67.08.090.

38 (11) "Event physician" means the physician licensed under RCW
39 67.08.100 and who is responsible for the activities described in RCW
40 67.08.090.

1 (12) "Face value" means the dollar value of a ticket or order,
2 which value must reflect the dollar amount that the customer is
3 required to pay or, for a complimentary ticket, would have been
4 required to pay to purchase a ticket with equivalent seating
5 priority, in order to view the event.

6 (13) "Gross receipts" means the amount received from the face
7 value of all tickets sold and complimentary tickets redeemed.

8 (14) "Kickboxing" means a type of boxing in which blows are
9 delivered with the fist and any part of the leg below the hip,
10 including the foot and where the contestants compete with the intent
11 not to injure or disable an opponent, but to win by decision,
12 knockout, or technical knockout.

13 (15) "Martial arts" means a type of boxing including sumo, judo,
14 karate, kung fu, tae kwon do, pankration, muay thai, or other forms
15 of full-contact martial arts or self-defense conducted on a full-
16 contact basis where weapons are not used and the participants utilize
17 kicks, punches, blows, or other techniques with the intent not to
18 injure or disable an opponent, but to defeat an opponent or win by
19 decision, knockout, technical knockout, or submission.

20 (16) "Mixed martial arts" means a combative sporting contest, the
21 rules of which allow two mixed martial arts competitors to attempt to
22 achieve dominance over one another by utilizing a variety of
23 techniques including, but not limited to, striking, grappling, and
24 the application of submission holds. "Mixed martial arts" is a type
25 of martial arts that does not include martial arts such as tae kwon
26 do, karate, judo, sumo, jujitsu, and kung fu.

27 (17) "No holds barred fighting," also known as "frontier
28 fighting" and "extreme fighting," means a contest, exhibition, or
29 match between contestants where any part of the contestant's body may
30 be used as a weapon or any means of fighting may be used with the
31 specific purpose to intentionally injure the other contestant in such
32 a manner that they may not defend themselves and a winner is
33 declared. Rules may or may not be used.

34 (18) "Physician" means a person licensed under chapter 18.57,
35 18.36A, or 18.71 RCW as a physician or a person holding an
36 osteopathic or allopathic physician license under the laws of any
37 jurisdiction in which the person resides.

38 (19) "Professional" means a person who has received or competed
39 for any purse or other articles of value greater than fifty dollars,
40 either for the expenses of training or for participating in an event.

1 (20) "Promoter" means a person, and includes any officer,
2 director, employee, or stockholder of a corporate promoter, who
3 produces, arranges, stages, holds, or gives an event in this state
4 involving a professional boxing, martial arts, or wrestling event or
5 amateur mixed martial arts event, or shows or causes to be shown in
6 this state a closed circuit telecast of a match involving
7 professional or amateur mixed martial arts participants whether or
8 not the telecast originates in this state.

9 (21) "Theatrical wrestling" means the performance of sports
10 entertainment in which:

11 (a) Two or more participants work together in a performance of
12 mock combat in a ring for the purpose of entertainment; and

13 (b)(i) The outcome is predetermined; and/or

14 (ii) The participants do not necessarily strive to win.

15 (22) "Theatrical wrestling school" means a facility that offers
16 training in theatrical wrestling.

17 (23) "Training facility" means a facility that:

18 (a) Offers training in one or more of the mixed martial arts; and

19 (b) Holds exhibitions in which all the participants are amateurs
20 and where an admission fee is charged.

21 ~~((+22))~~ (24) "Wrestling exhibition," ~~((or))~~ "wrestling
22 show," ~~((means a form of sports entertainment in which the~~
23 ~~participants display their skills in a physical struggle against each~~
24 ~~other in the ring and either the outcome may be predetermined or the~~
25 ~~participants do not necessarily strive to win, or both))~~ or
26 "wrestling event" means a demonstration of theatrical wrestling
27 presented to the public.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 67.08
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) A theatrical wrestling school may hold wrestling shows at the
31 school facility for training purposes and may charge an admission
32 fee.

33 (2) A theatrical wrestling school may hold a limited number of
34 wrestling shows for training purposes off the school premises and may
35 charge a fee.

36 (3) Any wrestling show presented by a theatrical wrestling school
37 must feature at least eighty percent amateur participants.

38 (4) The department must promulgate rules to implement this
39 section.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 67.08.100 and 2012 c 99 s 6 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The department upon receipt of a properly completed
4 application and payment of a nonrefundable fee, may grant an annual
5 license to an applicant for the following: (a) Promoter; (b) manager;
6 (c) boxer; (d) second; (e) wrestling participant; (f) inspector; (g)
7 judge; (h) timekeeper; (i) announcer; (j) event physician; (k) event
8 chiropractor; (l) referee; (m) matchmaker; (n) kickboxer; (o) martial
9 arts participant; (p) training facility; (~~and~~) (q) amateur
10 sanctioning organization; and (r) theatrical wrestling school.

11 (2) The application for the following types of licenses (~~shall~~)
12 includes a physical performed by a physician, as defined in RCW
13 67.08.002, which was performed by the physician with a time period
14 preceding the application as specified by rule: (a) Boxer; (b)
15 wrestling participant; (c) kickboxer; (d) martial arts participant;
16 and (e) referee.

17 (3) An applicant for the following types of licenses for the
18 sports of boxing, kickboxing, and martial arts (~~shall~~) must provide
19 annual proof of certification as having adequate experience, skill,
20 and training from an organization approved by the department,
21 including, but not limited to, the association of boxing commissions,
22 the international boxing federation, the international boxing
23 organization, the Washington state association of professional ring
24 officials, the world boxing association, the world boxing council, or
25 the world boxing organization for boxing officials, and the united
26 full contact federation for kickboxing and martial arts officials:
27 (a) Judge; (b) referee; (c) inspector; (d) timekeeper; or (e) other
28 officials deemed necessary by the department.

29 (4) No person (~~shall~~) may participate or serve in any of the
30 above capacities unless licensed as provided in this chapter.

31 (5) The referees, judges, timekeepers, event physicians,
32 chiropractors, and inspectors for any boxing, kickboxing, or martial
33 arts event (~~shall~~) must be designated by the department from among
34 licensed officials.

35 (6) The referee for any wrestling event (~~shall~~) must be
36 provided by the promoter and (~~shall~~) must be licensed as a
37 wrestling participant.

38 (7) The department (~~shall~~) must immediately suspend the license
39 or certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW
40 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a

1 person who is not in compliance with a support order. If the person
2 has continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during
3 the suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate (~~shall be~~)
4 is automatic upon the department's receipt of a release issued by the
5 department of social and health services stating that the licensee is
6 in compliance with the order.

7 (8) The director (~~shall~~) must suspend the license of any person
8 who has been certified by a lending agency and reported to the
9 director for nonpayment or default on a federally or state-guaranteed
10 educational loan or service-conditional scholarship. Prior to the
11 suspension, the agency must provide the person an opportunity for a
12 brief adjudicative proceeding under RCW 34.05.485 through 34.05.494
13 and issue a finding of nonpayment or default on a federally or state-
14 guaranteed educational loan or service-conditional scholarship. The
15 person's license may not be reissued until the person provides the
16 director a written release issued by the lending agency stating that
17 the person is making payments on the loan in accordance with a
18 repayment agreement approved by the lending agency. If the person has
19 continued to meet all other requirements for licensure during the
20 suspension, reinstatement is automatic upon receipt of the notice and
21 payment of any reinstatement fee the director may impose.

22 (9) A person may not be issued a license if the person has an
23 unpaid fine outstanding to the department.

24 (10) A person may not be issued a license unless they are at
25 least eighteen years of age.

26 (11)(a) This section (~~shall~~) does not apply to:

27 (i) Contestants or participants in events at which only amateurs
28 are engaged in contests (~~and/or~~);

29 (ii) Wrestling participants engaged in training or a wrestling
30 show at a theatrical wrestling school; and

31 (iii) Fraternal organizations and/or veterans' organizations
32 chartered by congress or the defense department, excluding any
33 recognized amateur sanctioning body recognized by the department.

34 (b) Upon request of the department, a promoter, contestant, or
35 participant (~~shall~~) must provide sufficient information to
36 reasonably determine whether this chapter applies.

37 **Sec. 4.** RCW 67.08.160 and 1999 c 282 s 10 are each amended to
38 read as follows:

1 (1) A promoter (~~shall~~) must have an ambulance or paramedical
2 unit present at the event location.

3 (2) A promoter of a wrestling show may satisfy this section by
4 having an emergency medical technician licensed under RCW 18.73.081
5 at the event location.

6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The legislature finds that theatrical
7 wrestling, like circus arts, is an art form that promotes the
8 economic and cultural vitality of the state of Washington. Theatrical
9 wrestling has a long history in Washington, and while large-scale
10 professional wrestling companies have dominated the field in recent
11 years, independent theatrical wrestling again has the potential to
12 thrive in this state. Legislation and rule making should reflect the
13 economic and cultural potential of theatrical wrestling.

14 (2) The legislature further finds that theatrical wrestling can
15 be safe for both participants and spectators. Safety requirements
16 aimed at more dangerous and daring forms of sport and entertainment
17 are unduly burdensome on theatrical wrestling promoters.
18 Additionally, it is important to adequately train the next generation
19 of theatrical wrestlers to foster safety and skill in theatrical
20 wrestling.

21 (3) The legislature finds that a theatrical wrestling school
22 license will create opportunity for a new generation of luchadores,
23 faces, and heels to create economic and cultural vitality in
24 Washington. Finally, reducing the medical personnel requirement for
25 wrestling shows will preserve the safety of participants and
26 spectators while fostering the ability of independent theatrical
27 wrestling promoters to build an audience in Washington and create new
28 artistic opportunities for Washington residents.

29 (4) The legislature finds that Washington is ready to rumble.

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