

CHAPTER 357

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

HOUSE BILL 26-1194

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) English and Barron, Duran, Lieder, Rutinel, McCluskie, Ricks;
also SENATOR(S) Hinrichsen, Coleman.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE OFFICE OF COMBATIVE SPORTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT'S 2025 SUNSET REPORT.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-110-101 as follows:

12-110-101. Short title.

The short title of this article 110 is the ~~"Colorado Professional Boxing Safety Act"~~ "COLORADO COMBATIVE SPORTS SAFETY ACT".

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-110-116 as follows:

12-110-116. Repeal of article - subject to review.

This article 110 is repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2026~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2037. Before the repeal, the office and the commission are scheduled for review in accordance with section 24-34-104.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **repeal** (27)(a)(V); and **add** (38)(a)(IV) as follows:

24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative declaration - repeal.

(27) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2026:

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(V) ~~The office of combative sports, including the Colorado combative sports commission, created in article 110 of title 12;~~

(38) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2037:

(IV) THE OFFICE OF COMBATIVE SPORTS, INCLUDING THE COLORADO COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION, CREATED IN ARTICLE 110 OF TITLE 12.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-110-102 as follows:

12-110-102. Legislative declaration.

(1) The general assembly ~~hereby~~ finds, determines, and declares that the federal "Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996", 15 U.S.C. sec. 6301 et seq., ~~as amended,~~ requires the state of Colorado to establish a state boxing commission. ~~Because there is no state boxing commission, any professional boxing match held in Colorado has to be supervised by another state's boxing commission, using safety guidelines and procedures implemented by that state~~ THE STATE HAS THEREFORE CREATED THE COLORADO COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION.

(2) The general assembly further finds and declares that it is in the best interests of the residents of Colorado, ~~professional boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS participants, and the future of ~~the sport of boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS in Colorado that the conduct of ~~the sport~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS be subject to an effective and efficient system of strict control designed by the general assembly. The system shall, at a minimum:

(a) Protect the safety of ~~the~~ participants; and

(b) Promote the public trust and confidence in the conduct of ~~professional boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS.

(3) To further public confidence and trust, this article 110 and rules ~~promulgated~~ ADOPTED pursuant to this article 110 ~~shall~~ regulate all persons, practices, and associations that relate to the operation of live ~~professional boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS events, performances, or contests held in Colorado.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-110-104, **amend** (5), (8), (12), (14), (16)(a)(II), and (16)(b)(II); **repeal** (1); and **add** (2.7), (6.8), (8.1), and (15.4) as follows:

12-110-104. Definitions.

As used in this article 110, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) ~~"Boxer" means an individual who participates in a boxing match.~~

(2.7) (a) "COMBATIVE SPORT" OR "COMBATIVE SPORTS" MEANS A COMPETITIVE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY THAT INVOLVES TWO OR MORE INDIVIDUALS ENGAGING IN COMBAT WITH RULES THAT GOVERN CONDUCT, CONTACT, SCORING, AND SAFETY.

(b) "COMBATIVE SPORT" OR "COMBATIVE SPORTS" INCLUDES BOXING, KICKBOXING, MARTIAL ARTS, MIXED MARTIAL ARTS, MUAY THAI, AND ANY OTHER COMBATIVE SPORT THE COMMISSION DEEMS, BY RULE, TO BE REGULATED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 110.

(5) "Exhibition" means a match in which participants display their ~~boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS skills and techniques without striving earnestly to win.

(6.8) "MANAGER" MEANS A PERSON THAT PROPOSES, SELECTS, AND ARRANGES THE CONTESTANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMBATIVE SPORTS MATCH.

(8) "Match" means a ~~professional boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS contest or exhibition, the object of which is to win by a decision, knockout, or technical knockout, and includes an event, engagement, sparring or practice session, show, or program where the public is admitted and there is intended to be physical contact. "Match" does not include a training or practice session when ~~no~~ A COST FOR admission is NOT charged.

(8.1) "MATCHMAKER" MEANS A PERSON THAT:

(a) PROPOSES, ARRANGES, OR SECURES A PARTICIPANT FOR A COMBATIVE SPORTS MATCH; OR

(b) ASSISTS A PROMOTER IN PROPOSING, ARRANGING, OR SECURING A PARTICIPANT FOR A COMBATIVE SPORTS MATCH.

(12) "Participant" means ~~a person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who engages in a match. ~~as a boxing contestant.~~

(14) "Place of training" means a facility where alcohol beverages are not permitted, an admission fee is not charged for nonstudents, instructors of particular disciplines train students in the art of ~~boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS, and students pay a fee to be enrolled in classes and receive instruction.

(15.4) (a) "PROMOTER" MEANS A PERSON PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING, PROMOTING, AND PRODUCING A COMBATIVE SPORTS MATCH.

(b) "PROMOTER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A HOTEL, CASINO, RESORT, OR OTHER COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT HOSTING OR SPONSORING A COMBATIVE SPORTS MATCH, UNLESS:

(I) THE HOTEL, CASINO, RESORT, OR OTHER COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING, PROMOTING, AND PRODUCING THE MATCH; AND

(II) THERE IS NO OTHER PERSON PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING, PROMOTING, AND PRODUCING THE MATCH.

(16) (a) "Toughperson fighting" means:

(II) A contest, match, tournament, exhibition, bout, or activity, as described in subsection (16)(a)(I) of this section, that is not recognized by and not sanctioned by any state, regional, or national ~~boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS sanctioning authority that is recognized by the director.

(b) "Toughperson fighting" does not mean:

(II) A sanctioned ~~boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS event approved by the commission.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-110-106, **amend** (3); and **add** (2)(a.3) and (2)(a.5) as follows.

12-110-106. Colorado combative sports commission - creation - repeal.

(2)(a.3) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(a.3) AND SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION ARE REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026.

(a.5)(I) ON AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF SEVEN MEMBERS. ALL MEMBERS ARE VOTING MEMBERS AND MUST BE RESIDENTS OF COLORADO, BE OF GOOD CHARACTER, AND NOT HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY FELONY OR MATCH-RELATED OFFENSE, NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-5-101. THE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THREE MEMBERS;

(B) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS, ONE OF WHOM MUST BE A PHYSICIAN WHO HAS RELEVANT EXPERIENCE OR TRAINING IN EMERGENCY, SPORTS, OR COMBATIVE SPORTS MEDICINE; AND

(C) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS, ONE OF WHOM MUST BE A PHYSICIAN WHO HAS RELEVANT EXPERIENCE OR TRAINING IN EMERGENCY, SPORTS, OR COMBATIVE SPORTS MEDICINE.

(II) THE TWO PHYSICIAN MEMBERS SHALL ADVISE THE COMMISSION ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PARTICIPANTS AND HEALTH ISSUES RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF MATCHES. THE PHYSICIAN MEMBERS MAY PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL ANY RULES THAT IN THEIR JUDGMENT WILL SAFEGUARD THE PHYSICAL WELFARE OF THE PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED IN COMBATIVE SPORTS. THE PHYSICIAN MEMBERS ARE VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(3) Meetings of the commission shall be held at least annually, ~~and~~ shall be called by the chair or by any two members of the commission, and ~~shall~~ MUST be open to the public. ~~Any three voting~~ FOUR members ~~shall~~ constitute a quorum at any meeting. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions may be adopted at any meeting at which a quorum exists by the affirmative vote of a majority of the ~~voting~~ members present. Members may participate in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear one another at all times during the meeting. A member participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-110-107, **amend** (1) introductory portion, (1)(a), (1)(k), and (1)(l)(III); and **add** (1)(m), (1.1), and (1.5) as follows:

12-110-107. General powers and duties of the commission - rules.

(1) In addition to any other powers specifically granted to the commission in this article 110, the commission shall ~~issue~~ **ADOPT** rules as necessary for the regulation of the conduct, promotion, and performance of live ~~boxing~~ matches in this state. The rules must be consistent with this article 110; the federal "Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996", 15 U.S.C. sec. 6301 et seq.; ~~as amended~~, and any other applicable federal law. The commission's rules must include:

(a) Requirements for issuance of licenses and permits for ~~boxers, seconds, inspectors, promoters, judges, and referees~~ PARTICIPANTS, CORNERS, AND OFFICIALS;

(k) Regulation of facilities; ~~and~~

(l) Procedures to:

(III) Allow the director to report a nondisciplinary ~~participant~~ license suspension to a national record keeper approved by the director; ~~AND~~

(m) PROVISIONS INTENDED TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS.

(1.1) WHEN ADOPTING RULES INTENDED TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(m) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE SAFETY DATA GATHERED AND PROVIDED TO IT BY THE OFFICE DIRECTOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-110-110 (3)(a)(IV).

(1.5) THE COMMISSION SHALL IDENTIFY, BY RULE, THE COMBATIVE SPORTS TO WHICH THIS ARTICLE 110 APPLIES.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-110-108 as follows:

12-110-108. License required.

~~No~~ A person shall NOT participate, officiate, judge, referee, promote, or ~~second~~ a professional boxing arts contest OR CORNER A MATCH unless the person is licensed pursuant to this article 110.

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-110-110, **amend** (3)(a) introductory portion, (3)(a)(II), (3)(a)(III), (3)(b) introductory portion, and (3)(b)(II); and **add** (3)(a)(IV) as follows:

12-110-110. Office director - appointment - qualification - powers and duties - director of division's powers and duties.

(3) (a) In addition to ~~the~~ ALL OTHER duties imposed upon the office director elsewhere in this article 110, the office director shall, in accordance with this article 110 and the rules of the commission:

(II) Supervise and administer the operation of matches; ~~and~~

(III) As deemed necessary by the director of the division, advise and make recommendations to the director of the division with regard to the director of the division's functions; AND

(IV) GATHER DATA RELATED TO ENSURING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS TO PROVIDE TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER WHEN IT ISSUES RULES PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-110-107.

(b) In addition to ~~the~~ ALL OTHER duties imposed upon the director of the division ~~elsewhere~~ in this article 110, the director of the division shall:

(II) Advise and recommend to the commission rules and other procedures as the director of the division deems necessary and advisable to improve the conduct of ~~boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS;

SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-110-111, **amend** (1) introductory portion, (1)(e), (1)(g)(I), (1)(h), and (2)(b)(IV); and **add** (1)(i) as follows:

12-110-111. Grounds for discipline.

(1) The director may take disciplinary or other action as authorized in section 12-20-404 against a ~~license~~ LICENSEE or an ~~application~~ APPLICANT for a license if the applicant or licensee:

(e) Has incurred disciplinary action related to ~~professional boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS in another jurisdiction. Evidence of disciplinary action is prima facie evidence for denial of a license or other disciplinary action if the violation would be grounds for disciplinary action in this state.

(g) Is guilty of conduct, or is incompetent or negligent in a manner, that:

(I) Is detrimental to a ~~contest or exhibition of boxing~~ MATCH, including unsportsmanlike conduct engaged in before, during, or after a ~~contest or exhibition of boxing;~~ or MATCH;

(h) Fails to comply with a limitation, restriction, or condition that the director or any other state or national regulatory authority responsible for regulating ~~boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS places on the licensee or applicant; OR

(i) FAILS TO RESPOND TO A LETTER FROM THE DIVISION REGARDING A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE LICENSEE OR APPLICANT WITHIN THE LENGTH OF TIME SPECIFIED IN THE LETTER.

(2)(b) Upon completing an investigation in accordance with section 12-20-403, the director shall make one of the following findings:

(IV) The investigation discloses an instance of conduct that does not warrant formal action but should not be dismissed as being without merit. If this finding is

made, the director may send a letter of admonition to the licensee in accordance with section 12-20-404 (4). ~~by certified mail.~~

SECTION 11. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-110-112 as follows:

12-110-112. Toughperson fighting prohibited - promoter and manager financial interest prohibited.

(1) (a) Toughperson fighting is prohibited in the state of Colorado. ~~No~~ A person or entity shall NOT promote, advertise, conduct, or compete or participate in toughperson fighting. ~~No~~ A license or permit shall NOT be issued for toughperson fighting or for any contests or exhibitions of a similar nature.

(b) A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION IS A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR AND SHALL BE PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 18-1.3-501.

(2) ~~Any violation of this section is a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501.~~

(3) A PROMOTER OR MATCHMAKER SHALL NOT HAVE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE MANAGEMENT OF A PARTICIPANT.

(4) A MANAGER SHALL NOT:

(a) HAVE A DIRECT OR INDIRECT FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE PROMOTION OF A PARTICIPANT;

(b) BE EMPLOYED BY A PROMOTER OR MATCHMAKER; OR

(c) RECEIVE COMPENSATION OR OTHER BENEFIT FROM A PROMOTER OR MATCHMAKER, EXCEPT FOR AN AMOUNT RECEIVED AS CONSIDERATION PURSUANT TO THE MANAGER'S CONTRACT WITH THE PARTICIPANT.

SECTION 12. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-110-115, **amend** (2) as follows:

12-110-115. Violations.

(2) **Criminal penalties.** ~~Any~~ A person ~~who~~ THAT engages in or offers or attempts to engage in the conduct, promotion, or performance of live ~~boxing~~ matches without an active license or permit issued under this article 110 is subject to penalties pursuant to section 12-20-407 (1)(a).

SECTION 13. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-407, **amend** (1)(a)(II) as follows:

12-20-407. Unauthorized practice of profession or occupation - penalties - exclusions.

(1) (a) A person commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501 if the person:

(II) Engages in or offers or attempts to engage in the conduct, promotion, or performance of live ~~boxing~~ matches without an active license or permit issued under article 110 of this title 12;

SECTION 14. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 3, 2026