

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0358.01 Renee Leone x2695

HOUSE BILL 26-1194

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

English and Barron,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hinrichsen,

Senate Committees

House Committees

Health & Human Services

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Sunset Process - House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill implements the recommendations of the department of regulatory agencies in its 2025 sunset review and report.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

Section 1 of the bill changes the name of the "Colorado Professional Boxing Safety Act" to the "Colorado Combative Sports Safety Act". **Sections 4, 5, 8, 12, and 13** update terms that reference boxing to better align with the new title.

Sections 2 and 3 continue the "Colorado Combative Sports Safety Act" and the office of combative sports (office), including the Colorado combative sports commission (commission), for 11 years, until 2037.

Section 6 grants the 2 physician members of the commission the power to vote with the other members and clarifies that the physician members must have experience or training in emergency, sports, or combative sports medicine.

Section 9 directs the office director to gather safety data related to combative sports to provide to the commission.

Section 7 directs the commission to consider the safety data collected by the office director during the commission's rule-making and requires the commission to identify, by rule, the combative sports to which the "Colorado Combative Sports Safety Act" applies.

Section 10 adds, to the combative sports statutes pertaining to grounds for discipline, that the director of the division of professions and occupations (division) may discipline a licensee or an applicant for a license for failing to respond to a letter from the division regarding a complaint against the licensee or applicant within the length of time for response specified in the letter. **Section 10** also removes the requirement that a letter of admonition sent to a licensee or applicant be sent by certified mail.

Section 11 prohibits a promoter or matchmaker from having a financial interest in the management of a combative sports participant (participant) and prohibits a manager from:

- Having a financial interest in the promotion of a participant;
- Being employed by a promoter or matchmaker; or
- Receiving compensation or other benefits from a promoter or matchmaker beyond the amount received as consideration pursuant to the manager's contract with the participant.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-110-101

3 as follows:

4 **12-110-101. Short title.**

5 The short title of this article 110 is the "Colorado Professional

1 ~~Boxing Safety Act~~" "COLORADO COMBATIVE SPORTS SAFETY ACT".

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

4 **12-110-116. Repeal of article - subject to review.**

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

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

10 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies
11 and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative
12 declaration - repeal.**

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

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

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

19 (II) THE OFFICE OF COMBATIVE SPORTS, INCLUDING THE
20 COLORADO COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION, CREATED IN ARTICLE 110 OF
21 TITLE 12.

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

24 **12-110-102. Legislative declaration.**

25 (1) The general assembly ~~hereby~~ finds, determines, and declares
26 that the federal "Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996", 15 U.S.C. sec.
27 6301 et seq., ~~as amended~~, requires the state of Colorado to establish a

1 state boxing commission. ~~Because there is no state boxing commission,~~
2 any professional boxing match held in Colorado has to be supervised by
3 another state's boxing commission, using safety guidelines and procedures
4 implemented by that state. THE STATE HAS THEREFORE CREATED THE
5 COLORADO COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION.

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

- 12 (a) Protect the safety of ~~the~~ participants; and
- 13 (b) Promote the public trust and confidence in the conduct of
14 professional ~~boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS.

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

20 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-110-104, **amend**
21 (5), (8), (12), (14), (16)(a)(II), and (16)(b)(II); **repeal** (1); and **add** (2.7),
22 (6.8), (8.1), and (15.4) as follows:

23 **12-110-104. Definitions.**

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

25 (1) ~~"Boxer"~~ means an individual who participates in a ~~boxing~~
26 ~~match~~:

27 (2.7) (a) "COMBATIVE SPORT" OR "COMBATIVE SPORTS" MEANS A

1 COMPETITIVE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY THAT INVOLVES TWO OR MORE
2 INDIVIDUALS ENGAGING IN COMBAT WITH RULES THAT GOVERN CONDUCT,
3 CONTACT, SCORING, AND SAFETY.

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

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

11 (6.8) "MANAGER" MEANS A PERSON THAT PROPOSES, SELECTS, AND
12 ARRANGES THE CONTESTANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROFESSIONAL
13 COMBATIVE SPORTS MATCH.

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

21 (8.1) "MATCHMAKER" MEANS A PERSON THAT:

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

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

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

6 (15.4)(a) "PROMOTER" MEANS A PERSON PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE
7 FOR ORGANIZING, PROMOTING, AND PRODUCING A PROFESSIONAL
8 COMBATIVE SPORTS MATCH.

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

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

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

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

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

22 (b) "Toughperson fighting" does not mean:

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

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

27 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;

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

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

1 FOUR members ~~shall~~ constitute a quorum at any meeting. Action may be
2 taken and motions and resolutions may be adopted at any meeting at
3 which a quorum exists by the affirmative vote of a majority of the ~~voting~~
4 members present. Members may participate in a regular or special
5 meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of
6 communication by which all members participating may simultaneously
7 hear one another at all times during the meeting. A member participating
8 in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the
9 meeting.

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

13 **12-110-107. General powers and duties of the commission -**
14 **rules.**

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

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

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

25 (l) Procedures to:

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

1 AND

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

4 (1.1) WHEN ADOPTING RULES INTENDED TO ENSURE THE HEALTH
5 AND SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(m) OF THIS
6 SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE SAFETY
7 DATA GATHERED AND PROVIDED TO IT BY THE OFFICE DIRECTOR PURSUANT
8 TO SECTION 12-110-110 (3)(a)(IV).

9 (1.5) THE COMMISSION SHALL IDENTIFY, BY RULE, THE COMBATIVE
10 SPORTS TO WHICH THIS ARTICLE 110 APPLIES.

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

13 **12-110-108. License required.**

14 ~~Not~~ A person shall NOT participate, officiate, judge, referee,
15 promote, or second a professional ~~boxing arts contest~~ MATCH unless the
16 person is licensed pursuant to this article 110.

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

20 **12-110-110. Office director - appointment - qualification -
21 powers and duties - director of division's powers and duties.**

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

25 (II) Supervise and administer the operation of matches; **and**

26 (III) As deemed necessary by the director of the division, advise
27 and make recommendations to the director of the division with regard to

1 the director of the division's functions; AND

2 (IV) GATHER DATA RELATED TO ENSURING THE HEALTH AND
3 SAFETY OF PARTICIPANTS TO PROVIDE TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE
4 COMMISSION TO CONSIDER WHEN IT ISSUES RULES PURSUANT TO SECTION
5 12-110-107.

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

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

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

15 **12-110-111. Grounds for discipline.**

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

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

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

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

1 ~~contest or exhibition of boxing, or~~ MATCH;

2 (h) Fails to comply with a limitation, restriction, or condition that

3 the director or any other state or national regulatory authority responsible

4 for regulating ~~boxing~~ COMBATIVE SPORTS places on the licensee or

5 applicant; OR

6 (i) FAILS TO RESPOND TO A LETTER FROM THE DIVISION REGARDING

7 A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE LICENSEE OR APPLICANT WITHIN THE LENGTH

8 OF TIME SPECIFIED IN THE LETTER.

9 (2) (b) Upon completing an investigation in accordance with

10 section 12-20-403, the director shall make one of the following findings:

11 (IV) The investigation discloses an instance of conduct that does

12 not warrant formal action but should not be dismissed as being without

13 merit. If this finding is made, the director may send a letter of admonition

14 to the licensee in accordance with section 12-20-404 (4). ~~by certified~~

15 ~~mail~~.

16 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-110-112

17 as follows:

18 **12-110-112. Toughperson fighting prohibited - promoter and**

19 **manager financial interest prohibited.**

20 (1)(a) Toughperson fighting is prohibited in the state of Colorado.

21 ~~No~~ A person or entity shall NOT promote, advertise, conduct, or compete

22 or participate in toughperson fighting. ~~No~~ A license or permit shall NOT

23 be issued for toughperson fighting or for any contests or exhibitions of a

24 similar nature.

25 (b) A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION IS A CLASS

26 2 MISDEMEANOR AND SHALL BE PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN SECTION

27 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.

12 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-110-115, amend

13 (2) as follows:

12-110-115. Violations.

20 SECTION 13. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-407, amend

21 (1)(a)(II) as follows:

22 **12-20-407. Unauthorized practice of profession or occupation**
23 **- penalties - exclusions.**

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

26 (II) Engages in or offers or attempts to engage in the conduct,
27 promotion, or performance of live ~~boxing~~ matches without an active

1 license or permit issued under article 110 of this title 12;

2 **SECTION 14. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
3 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
4 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
5 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
6 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
7 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
8 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
9 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
10 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
11 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.