

AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 6, 2013  
AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 4, 2013  
AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 12, 2013  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2013  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2013  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1186**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Bonilla  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Jones)**

February 22, 2013

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An act to amend Sections 18625, 18627, 18646, and 18702 of, and to add Section 18770 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to business, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1186, as amended, Bonilla. State Athletic Commission.

Under existing law, the State Athletic Commission Act, the State Athletic Commission has jurisdiction over all professional and amateur boxing, professional and amateur kickboxing, all forms and combinations of forms of full contact martial arts contests, including mixed martial arts, and matches or exhibitions conducted, held, or given within this state. Existing law prohibits an event from taking place without the prior approval of the commission. Existing law prohibits a person from engaging in the promotion of, or from participating in, a

boxing or martial arts contest, match, or exhibition without a license, except as specified. Existing law requires protection of the public to be the highest priority for the commission. A violation of the act is a crime.

Under existing law, “martial arts” means any combination of full contact martial arts including mixed martial arts and defines “full contact” as the use of full unrestrained physical force in a martial arts contest. Under existing law, a “contest” is where full or partial contact is used or intended that may result or is intended to result in physical harm to the opponent. Under existing law, opponents are not required to use their best efforts in any exhibition or sparring match.

This bill would delete that provision relating to best efforts and would specify that a contest refers to a professional or amateur contest where full contact is used or intended that may result in physical harm to the opponent. The bill would provide that an amateur contest includes a contest where full contact is used, even if unintentionally. The bill would define the term “full contact” to mean the use of physical force in a martial arts contest that may result or is intended to result in physical harm to the opponent. Because the bill would change the definition of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Under existing law, the commission may authorize a nonprofit boxing, wrestling, or martial arts club or organization, upon approval of its bylaws, to administer the commission’s rules for amateur boxing, wrestling, and full contact martial arts contests and thus waive direct application of the commission’s laws if the commission makes a specified finding.

This bill would ~~provide~~ *specify* that the commission may authorize one or more nonprofit boxing, wrestling, or martial arts clubs or organizations to administer its rules for amateur boxing, wrestling, and full contact martial arts contests subject to those same limitations.

Existing law authorizes the commission to license professional and amateur martial arts fighters. Existing law prohibits a person under 18 years of age from participating as a contestant in any contest or match or exhibition, except that any person 16 years of age or over may be licensed as an amateur and may participate in an amateur contest or match.

This bill would prohibit a person under 18 years of age from participating as a contestant in any professional contest or match or exhibition. The bill would authorize any person, irrespective of age, to participate as a contestant in an amateur contest, match, or exhibition ~~subject~~ with the approval of the commission *subject* to that licensure

authorization. The bill would specify that the commission has jurisdiction over all forms and combinations of forms of full contact martial arts contests involving participants 18 years of age or younger.

Existing law authorizes the commission to appoint an advisory committee to advise the commission on martial arts. Existing law requires the advisory committee to be composed of members with prior specified experience with kickboxing or full-contact martial arts events.

This bill would require the commission to establish an advisory pankration subcommittee, consisting of 3 commission members, to investigate the rules and conduct of contests involving or claiming to involve pankration by persons under 18 years of age, or any style deemed by the subcommittee to be sufficiently similar thereto. The bill would require the subcommittee to meet and examine specified matters, including, but not limited to, participant safety in pankration contests and whether legislation should be enacted to impose age-based restrictions on those contest participants. By July 1, 2014, the bill would require the subcommittee to make recommendations to the commission regarding any legislative changes to be enacted that may be necessary to improve its regulation and oversight of pankration contests.

*This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 18646 of the Business and Professions Code made by this bill and SB 309 to take effect if both bills are chaptered and this bill is chaptered last.*

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 18625 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 18625. (a) As described in the specific provisions of the act,
- 4 whether referring to a professional or amateur contest or match,
- 5 the terms “contest” and “match” are synonymous, may be used
- 6 interchangeably, include boxing, kickboxing, and martial arts

1 exhibitions, and mean a fight, prizefight, boxing contest, pugilistic  
2 contest, kickboxing contest, martial arts contest, or sparring match,  
3 between two or more persons, where full contact is used or intended  
4 that may result or is intended to result in physical harm to the  
5 opponent.

6 (b) (1) An amateur contest or match includes a contest or match  
7 where full contact is used, even if unintentionally.

8 (2) An amateur contest or match does not include light contact  
9 karate, tae kwon do, judo, or any other light contact martial arts  
10 as approved by the commission and recognized by the International  
11 Olympic Committee as an Olympic sport.

12 SEC. 2. Section 18627 of the Business and Professions Code  
13 is amended to read:

14 18627. (a) “Martial arts” means any form of karate, kung fu,  
15 tae kwon do, kickboxing or any combination of full contact martial  
16 arts, including mixed martial arts, or self-defense conducted on a  
17 full contact basis where a weapon is not used.

18 (b) “Kickboxing” means any form of boxing in which blows  
19 are delivered with the hand and any part of the leg below the hip,  
20 including the foot.

21 (c) “Full contact” means the use of physical force in a martial  
22 arts contest that may result or is intended to result in physical harm  
23 to the opponent, including any contact that does not meet the  
24 definition of light contact or noncontact.

25 (d) “Light contact” means the use of controlled martial arts  
26 techniques whereby no contact to the face is permitted and no  
27 contact is permitted which may result or is intended to result in  
28 physical harm to the opponent.

29 (e) “Noncontact” means that no contact occurs between either  
30 contestant.

31 SEC. 3. Section 18646 of the Business and Professions Code  
32 is amended to read:

33 18646. (a) This chapter applies to all amateur boxing,  
34 wrestling, and full contact martial arts contests.

35 (b) The commission may, however, authorize one or more  
36 nonprofit boxing, wrestling, or martial arts clubs or organizations,  
37 upon approval of its bylaws, to administer its rules for amateur  
38 boxing, wrestling, and full contact martial arts contests, and may,  
39 therefore, waive direct commission application of laws and rules,  
40 including licensure, subject to the commission’s affirmative finding

1 that the standards and enforcement of similar rules by a club or  
2 organization meet or exceed the safety and fairness standards of  
3 the commission. The commission shall review the performance of  
4 any such club or organization annually.

5 (c) Every contest subject to this section shall be preceded by a  
6 physical examination, specified by the commission, of every  
7 contestant. A physician and surgeon shall be in attendance at the  
8 contest. There shall be a medical insurance program satisfactory  
9 to the commission provided by an amateur club or organization in  
10 effect covering all contestants. The commission shall review  
11 compliance with these requirements.

12 (d) Any club or organization which conducts, holds, or gives  
13 amateur contests pursuant to this section, which collects money  
14 for the event, shall furnish a written financial report of receipts  
15 and disbursements within 90 days of the event.

16 (e) The commission has the right to have present without charge  
17 or restriction such representatives as are necessary to obtain  
18 compliance with this section.

19 (f) The commission may require any additional notices and  
20 reports it deems necessary to enforce the provisions of this section.

21 *SEC. 3.5. Section 18646 of the Business and Professions Code*  
22 *is amended to read:*

23 18646. (a) This chapter applies to all amateur boxing,  
24 wrestling, and full contact martial arts contests.

25 (b) The commission may, however, authorize ~~a one or more~~  
26 ~~nonprofit boxing, wrestling, or martial arts club or organization,~~  
27 *clubs, organizations, or sanctioning bodies*, upon approval of its  
28 bylaws, to administer its rules for amateur boxing, wrestling, and  
29 full contact martial arts contests, and may, therefore, waive direct  
30 commission application of laws and rules, including licensure,  
31 subject to the commission's affirmative finding that the standards  
32 and enforcement of similar rules by ~~that a club or organization~~  
33 ~~meet or exceed the safety and fairness standards of the commission.~~  
34 The commission shall review the performance of any such club  
35 ~~or~~, organization, *or sanctioning body* annually.

36 (c) Every contest subject to this section shall be preceded by a  
37 physical examination, specified by the commission, of every  
38 contestant. A physician *and surgeon* shall be in attendance at the  
39 contest. There shall be a medical insurance program satisfactory  
40 to the commission provided by ~~the an amateur club or~~,

1 organization, *or sanctioning body* in effect covering all contestants.

2 The commission shall review compliance with these requirements.

3 (d) Any club ~~or~~, organization ~~which~~, *or sanctioning body that*  
4 conducts, holds, or gives amateur contests pursuant to this section,  
5 which collects money for the event, shall furnish a written financial  
6 report of receipts and disbursements within 90 days of the event.

7 (e) The commission has the right to have present without charge  
8 or restriction such representatives as are necessary to obtain  
9 compliance with this section.

10 (f) The commission may require any additional notices and  
11 reports it deems necessary to enforce the provisions of this section.

12 (g) *The commission, at its discretion, may rescind previously*  
13 *approved authorization of a nonprofit boxing, wrestling, or martial*  
14 *arts club, organization, or sanctioning body to administer its rules*  
15 *for amateur boxing, wrestling, and full contact martial arts*  
16 *contests.*

17 SEC. 4. Section 18702 of the Business and Professions Code  
18 is amended to read:

19 18702. (a) No person under 18 years of age shall participate  
20 as a contestant in any professional contest or match or exhibition.

21 (b) Any person, irrespective of age, may participate as a  
22 contestant in an amateur contest, match, or exhibition with the  
23 approval of the commission subject to Section 18642.

24 (c) Consistent with Section 18640, the commission shall have  
25 jurisdiction over all forms and combinations of forms of full contact  
26 martial arts contests involving participants 18 years of age or  
27 younger.

28 SEC. 5. Section 18770 is added to the Business and Professions  
29 Code, to read:

30 18770. (a) (1) The commission shall establish an advisory  
31 pankration subcommittee to investigate the rules and conduct of  
32 contests involving or claiming to involve pankration by persons  
33 under 18 years of age, or any style deemed by the subcommittee  
34 to be sufficiently similar thereto.

35 (2) The pankration subcommittee shall consist of three members  
36 of the commission.

37 (b) The subcommittee shall meet and examine the following  
38 matters, including, but not limited to:

39 (1) In general, the legality and safety of the contests described  
40 in subdivision (a).

1 (2) Whether or not legislation should be enacted to impose  
2 age-based requirements or restrictions, which may include a  
3 prohibition on participants engaging in the contests described in  
4 subdivision (a).

5 (3) Appropriate safety precautions for persons under 18 years  
6 of age engaging in the contests described in subdivision (a).

7 (c) By July 1, 2014, the subcommittee shall make  
8 recommendations to the commission regarding any legislative  
9 changes to be enacted that may be necessary to improve the  
10 commission's regulation and oversight of the contests described  
11 in subdivision (a) in order to adequately protect participants.

12 *SEC. 6. Section 3.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to*  
13 *Section 18646 of the Business and Professions Code proposed by*  
14 *both this bill and SB 309. It shall only become operative if (1) both*  
15 *bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1,*  
16 *2014, but this bill becomes operative first, (2) each bill amends*  
17 *Section 18646 of the Business and Professions Code, and (3) this*  
18 *bill is enacted after SB 309, in which case Section 18646 of the*  
19 *Business and Professions Code, as amended by Section 3 of this*  
20 *bill, shall remain operative only until the operative date of SB 309,*  
21 *at which time Section 3.5 of this bill shall become operative.*

22 ~~SEC. 6.~~

23 *SEC. 7. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to*  
24 *Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because*  
25 *the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school*  
26 *district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or*  
27 *infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty*  
28 *for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of*  
29 *the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within*  
30 *the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California*  
31 *Constitution.*

32 ~~SEC. 7.~~

33 *SEC. 8. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the*  
34 *immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within*  
35 *the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into*  
36 *immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

- 1 In order to make needed changes to the State Athletic
- 2 Commission Act as soon as possible, it is necessary that this act
- 3 take effect immediately.

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