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HOUSE BILL NO. 1272

Offered January 20, 2010

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-831 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation; powers and duties with respect to boxing and wrestling events.

Patron—Phillips

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 54.1-831 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-831. Powers and duties of the Department.

The Department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. In addition to the powers and duties otherwise conferred by law, the Director shall have the powers and duties of a regulatory board as contained in §§ 54.1-201 and 54.1-202, and shall have the power and duty to:

1. Promulgate regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) which implement the federal Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.) and protect the public against incompetent, unqualified, unscrupulous or unfit persons engaging in the activities regulated by this chapter.

The regulations shall include requirements for (i) initial and renewal licensure, (ii) licensure and conduct of events, (iii) standards of practice for persons arranging, promoting, conducting, supervising and participating in events, (iv) grounds for disciplinary actions against licensees, (v) records to be kept and maintained by licensees, (vi) manner in which fees are to be accounted for and submitted to the Department, and (vii) minimum health coverage for injuries sustained in a boxing match. The Department shall have direct oversight of events to assure the safety and well-being of boxers and wrestlers.

2. Charge each applicant for licensure and for renewals of licensure a nonrefundable fee subject to the provisions of § 54.1-113 and subdivision 4 of § 54.1-201.

3. Conduct investigations to determine the suitability of applicants for licensure and to determine the licensee's compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

4. Conduct investigations as to whether monopolies, combinations or other circumstances exist to restrain matches or exhibitions of professional boxing or wrestling anywhere in the Commonwealth. The Attorney General may assist investigations at the request of the Department.

5. Exercise jurisdiction over all wrestling and boxing conducted within the Commonwealth by any person, except where otherwise exempted.

INTRODUCED

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