

SB7 INTRODUCED



1 SB7
2 9JKA3BP-1
3 By Senator Allen
4 RFD: State Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26
6 PFD: 17-Jun-25



SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Athletic Commission is responsible for regulating boxing, wrestling, and mixed martial arts pursuant to the Alabama Unarmed Combat Act.

This bill would prohibit slap fighting in the state.

This bill would also authorize the Attorney General to bring an action for certain violations of the act and would provide criminal penalties for certain violations.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Athletic Commission; to amend Sections 41-9-1022 and 41-9-1038, Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit slap fighting in the state; to authorize the Attorney General to bring a civil action for certain violations of the Alabama Unarmed Combat Act; and to provide civil fines and criminal penalties for violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 41-9-1022 and 41-9-1038 of the Code



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of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§41-9-1022

(a) This article shall not be construed to apply to any match, contest, or exhibition of boxing or wrestling in which the contestants are all amateurs and which is governed or authorized by any of the following:

(1) U.S.A. Boxing.

(2) The Alabama High School Athletic Association.

(3) The National Collegiate Athletic Association.

(4) Amateur Athletic Union.

(5) Golden Gloves.

(6) USA Wrestling.

(7) The National Junior College Athletic Association.

(8) The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

(9) The National Collegiate Wrestling Association.

(10) The local affiliate of any organization listed in this section.

(b) Nothing in this article shall be construed to authorize any match, contest, or exhibition of slap fighting in this state. For the purposes of this subsection, "slap fighting" is unarmed combat consisting of two opponents who stand at arm's length from each other and take turns slapping each other in the face. The opponents are prohibited from moving, flinching, or defending themselves in any way as blows are struck.

"§41-9-1038

(a) (1) Any person may file a written and signed



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complaint with the commission alleging that any other person has violated any provision of Sections 41-9-1029 ~~to~~ through 41-9-1037, ~~inclusive~~. A complaint shall be made in the manner prescribed by the board and shall be referred by the commission to a standing investigative committee, consisting of a commission member, the executive director, the attorney for the commission, and an investigator or the chief inspector of the commission. If the investigative committee finds that no probable cause exists, the investigative committee may dismiss the charges and prepare a statement in writing, detailing the reasons for the decision.

~~(b) (1)~~ (2) a. If the investigative committee finds that probable cause exists, the commission shall initiate an administrative proceeding. If the commission determines the person has violated any provision of Sections 41-9-1029 ~~to~~ through 41-9-1037, ~~inclusive~~, the commission may do any of the following:

~~a. 1.~~ 1. Issue a cease and desist order.

~~b. 2.~~ 2. Suspend or revoke a license.

~~c. 3.~~ 3. Impose an administrative fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation.

~~(2) b.~~ b. The commission may petition the circuit court of the county where the violation occurred to enforce a cease and desist order and to collect any assessed fine.

(b) The Attorney General may bring a civil action requesting relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order, against any person he or she believes is violating any provision of



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Sections 41-9-1029 through 41-9-1037.

(c) (1) Any manager, promoter, matchmaker, or licensee who knowingly violates or coerces or causes any other person to violate any provision of Sections 41-9-1029 through 41-9-1037 shall be guilty of a Class C felony.

(2) Any member or employee of the commission or any person who administers or enforces this article or rules adopted pursuant to this article who knowingly violates Section 41-9-1033 or Section 41-9-1034 shall be guilty of a Class C felony.

(d) (1) Any professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, professional wrestler, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional competitor in mixed martial arts who knowingly violates this article, except Section 41-9-1034, upon conviction shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

(2) In addition to the criminal penalties provided in subdivision (1), any professional boxer, professional bare knuckle boxer, tough man contestant, professional wrestler, amateur mixed martial arts competitor, or professional competitor in mixed martial arts who violates Section 41-9-1034 may be punished by a civil fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) together with a percentage of the purse not exceeding 15 percent for each violation. All fines and purse percentages imposed by this subdivision shall be collected by the commission and deposited into the Alabama Athletic Commission Fund established in Section 41-9-1039.



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113 (e) A person who participates in or promotes unarmed
114 combat without being properly authorized or licensed by the
115 commission pursuant to this article shall be guilty of a Class
116 A misdemeanor.

117 ~~(e)~~ (f) The criminal penalties in this section shall not
118 be construed to repeal other criminal laws. Whenever conduct
119 prescribed by this article is also prescribed by other
120 provision of law, the provision which carries the more serious
121 penalty shall be applied.

122 ~~(d)~~ (g) Any person aggrieved by an adverse action of the
123 commission may appeal the action to the Circuit Court of
124 Montgomery County in accordance with the Alabama
125 Administrative Procedure Act."

126 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
127 1, 2026.