

2011 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2286

# 2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2286  
February 4, 2011  
14020

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Katie Oliver*

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the duties of the state combative sports commissioner.

## Minutes:

Testimony Attached

**Vice Chairman Sorvaag:** Dist 45 in Fargo. Bill brought on the request of the Secretary of State, presently he also carries the title of the state athletic commissioner. His feeling is that it wasn't reflective of all the things that he does. That is my extent of the understanding.

**Al Jager:** Secretary of State. See attached testimony #1.

**Senator Nelson:** Line 14 page 2, minimum fee, would that ever be more than what they took in. Is there a possibility that they don't have \$500?

**Al Jager:** We are not sure; some events may take in more and still lose money. We have an obligation to ...it is apropos for us to say that we are sending out 2 people

**Senator Nelson:** this fee is all inclusive?

**Al Jager:** In a sense it does.

**Senator Nelson:** But this \$500 includes lodging?

**Al Jager:** Yes we have to generate the revenues but I do need to say that since it is the duty of the Secretary of State we cover it out of the general fund. Their per diem is under OMB. We have an ongoing appropriation and we stay even. We have 2 employees going to Minot tonight and they will need to be there though sat night and I will end up paying overtime.

Chairman Dever: The def of the sports that you regulate is pretty specific.

**Al Jager:** Yes.

**Senator Nelson:** He has added mixed fighting style; I remember defeating this bill a few years ago.

**Al Jager:** We came into the legislature and said that they had done it completely. When you look at it, the events that we have are being attended by the public.

**Chad Kurle:** Impact Fighting Champs, I am the league Commissioner with 2 years on the boxing committee. From the promoters of the state we would agree with the legis. With the minimum fee that we have there is a feeling that we have the best athletic commissioner in the country for what we do. 60 or 70% of the events in the state have gross revs of above \$500.

# 2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2286  
February 11, 2011  
14441

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Katie Oliver*

**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Relating to the duties of the state combative sports commissioner.

**Minutes:**

No testimony attached.

Chairman Dever opened the floor to discussion on SB 2286.

A motion to adopt the amendments was made by Senator Nelson with a second by Vice Chairman Sorvaag, roll was taken and the amendment was adopted on a 7-0 vote. A motion was then made for a do pass as amended by Vice Chairman Sorvaag with a second by Senator Berry there was no further discussion, roll was taken and the motion passed 6-1 with Senator Berry Sorvaag carrying the bill to the floor.

# FISCAL NOTE

Requested by Legislative Council  
01/22/2011

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2286

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium		2013-2015 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium			2013-2015 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill only pertains to a name change. There is no fiscal impact in the bill.

B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

N/A

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

N/A

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

N/A

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

N/A

Name:	Al Jaeger	Agency:	Secretary of State
Phone Number:	328-2900	Date Prepared:	01/23/2011

*JB*  
*2-11-11*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2286

Page 1, line 11, overstrike "The"

Page 1, overstrike line 12

Page 1, line 13, overstrike "include one or more members of the athletic advisory board."

Page 1, line 14, overstrike "each board" and insert immediately thereafter "the commission"

Page 1, line 14, overstrike "Board" and insert immediately thereafter "Commission"

Re-number accordingly

Date: 2/11/14  
Roll Call Vote #: 4

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2280

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Make Amendments

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Sorvaag

Senator	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	X		Senator Marcellais	X	
Vice Chairman Sorvaag	X		Senator Nelson	X	
Senator Barry	X				
Senator Cook	X				
Senator Schaible	X				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment N/A

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-11-11  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2286

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken As PWD

Motion Made By Sorvaag Seconded By Benny

Senator	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Dever	X		Senator Marcellais	X	
Vice Chairman Sorvaag	X		Senator Nelson	X	
Senator Barry	X				
Senator Cook	X	X			
Senator Schaible	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 1

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment Benny

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2286: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)**  
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends  
**DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2286 was placed  
on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 11, overstrike "The"

Page 1, overstrike line 12

Page 1, line 13, overstrike "include one or more members of the athletic advisory board."

Page 1, line 14, overstrike "each board" and insert immediately thereafter "the commission"

Page 1, line 14, overstrike "Board" and insert immediately thereafter "Commission"

Renumber accordingly

2011 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2286

# 2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2286  
March 11, 2011  
15326

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature	<i>Carmen Hart</i>
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the duties of the state combative sports commissioner

## Minutes:

**Chairman Bette Grande** opened the hearing on SB 2286. **Vice Chairman Randy Boehning** had to take over the hearing.

**Al Jaeger, Secretary of State**, appeared. **Attachment 1.**

**Rep. Lonny Winrich:** I was looking over the list of mixed fighting style events in the back and I am fascinated by the names of some of the promoters like Pound'Em Productions, Vindictive Entertainment, or Mad Dog Productions. I am wondering if your office has to approve the titles of the organizations that sponsor these events?

**Al Jaeger:** No. It is obvious, Rep. Winrich, you haven't gone to one of these events yet.

**Rep. Lonny Winrich:** No sir, I have not.

**Al Jaeger:** I really should really introduce Mary Feist and Linda \_ back here from my office. I don't have to go to that many, but I can tell you that these guys might have all of these skills and what have you but between Mary and Linda, they tow the line because these two don't take any guff. It is a whole different culture but we do regulate it. Right now they pack the place.

There was no one in opposition or neutral to this bill.

The hearing was closed.

# 2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2286  
March 18, 2011  
15691

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature *Carmen Hart*

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the duties of the state combative sports commissioner

## Minutes:

**Chairman Bette Grande** opened the discussion on SB 2286 by looking at the secretary of state's proposed amendments.

**Rep. Mark Sanford** moved the amendment.

**Rep. Vicky Steiner:** Second.

**A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.**

**Rep. Mark Sanford** moved a Do pass as amended.

**Rep. Karen Karls** seconded the motion.

**Rep. Vicky Steiner:** What was the \$500 fee about again? I don't remember. Did he say why they did the \$500?

**Vice Chairman Randy Boehning:** When they go out and do these fights, they have to do the weigh ins. They take care of all the things when they do the boxing matches. That is the fee they have to pay in order to get the weigh ins, etc.

**Rep. Vicky Steiner:** That is a state expense.

**Vice Chairman Randy Boehning:** That is an expense they have to pay. I don't know if they do anything above that or not.

**Rep. Roscoe Streyle:** It says 3% of gross but the minimum they could charge is \$500. It is \$500 and say it is \$100,000 in gross sales, then it would be \$3,000.

**Chairman Bette Grande:** Who gets that money?

**Rep. Vicky Steiner:** All goes in the general fund.

**Rep. Karen Karls:** Line 18 says it is paid into a special fund.

**Rep. Ron Guggisberg:** He told me the other day at my desk they made \$3 million for the state.

**Chairman Bette Grande:** I believe it has to do more with the running and operating of his office. This is talking only about this special fund and this is appropriated for continuing appropriation for the administration only of this chapter. Anything he collects has to be used in combative sports.

**Rep. Vicky Steiner:** You might want to ask about that because I know we are starting to move everything into the general funds so we always know what general fund standing we have at the state. There is always resistance to have special funds. I don't know if this is new.

**Chairman Bette Grande:** The only new language is that it is not called mixed fighting board but it is called combative. That fund already exists.

**Rep. Vicky Steiner:** It could be fairly new.

**Chairman Bette Grande:** Boxing has always been under the secretary of state. That fund already exists. She mentioned that she doesn't watch boxing. She can't comprehend it, can't go there, can't deal with it.

**Rep. Lonny Winrich:** Even beyond that, your specific goal in that ring is to render another human body being unconscious.

**Chairman Bette Grande:** I have never understood that one.

**Rep. Roscoe Streyle:** Do you think that \$500 is going to have problems on the floor?

**Chairman Bette Grande:** I am wondering about that.

**Rep. Roscoe Streyle:** I think we should strike that to \$250 or something.

**Vice Chairman Randy Boehning:** That basically is a wash through of money, because it costs so much to send these guys out to do the fights. Before we strike that we better talk with the secretary of state's office.

**Chairman Bette Grande:** I would have to make that kind of an adjustment without checking as to exactly why and I did not hear the bill. If you are not comfortable with passing this, we will leave this motion on the table. We will hold this.

**Rep. Gary Paur:** I think most people on the floor feel very comfortable with anything coming from the secretary of state. Do they not?

**Chairman Bette Grande:** I wouldn't say that one thing is easier than another only because when you are looking at fees I would need to know what the past fee structure

was and why we have this particular language and since I was not here for that unless somebody remembers exactly, I will hold this then until we do that. I am going to leave the do pass as amended on the table.

**Rep. Lonny Winrich** moved to table 2286.

**Rep. Vicky Steiner** seconded the motion.

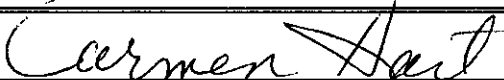
**A voice vote was taken to table 2286. Motion carried.**

# 2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SB 2286  
March 25, 2011  
16025

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature	
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the duties of the state combative sports commissioner

## Minutes:

**Vice Chairman Randy Boehning** had mentioned on March 24 that Rep. Sanford had some information to share with the committee and was not present that day so it was decided to wait on this bill. **Rep. Lisa Meier** mentioned that there was a motion on the table from the past as well on that bill.

**Chairman Bette Grande** opened the discussion on SB 2286 on March 25.

**Rep. Mark Sanford:** I checked with the secretary of state relative to the status of the funds. So far this biennium they collected \$32,200 and expenses for doing this kind of thing, supervising boxing and martial arts, came to \$25,500 rounding off again. The sources of the revenue have been the licensing fees so if you are a boxer you probably pay \$10 for an annual boxing fee. If you are a promoter, you pay \$100 and that is the range depending upon if you are a judge or official. They are somewhere in that range from \$10 to \$100. They had about 880 boxing and mixed martial arts licenses thus far. Those would account for somewhere in the vicinity of half or a little less of that revenue they have. The rest of the revenue comes from the fees that they charge the promoter on the gross receipts and it is 3%. There is an amendment this time of \$500 being the minimum that the promoter would have to pay if 3% didn't get the \$500. Even that doesn't cover the expenses of managing it. There has only been one or two that haven't reached that \$500 level. Those funds go into a special account in the treasurer's office and it is a continuing appropriation is the language in the law. I checked what had happened in the appropriations committee relative to the secretary of state's budget and essentially what the governor had in his budget stayed the same. At least to this point as of the reports we received yesterday, secretary of state's budget has not been changed. My understanding is that the special fund waivers around, but it doesn't have big sums in there and it is just there to pay these expenses. The expenses that they pay are pay for a couple of staff to travel to each event and kind of supervise it. There is some supervisory work in advance of these events, but once they get to the event they will do the weigh ins. They will do the supervision of all of the preparation of the fighters. Afterwards they do the post fight kinds of things. They supervise the distribution of the dollars that go to the fighters and all of the officials, etc. They also have two commissions right now, a boxing commission and a

martial arts commission. Those commissioners receive expenses to come to meetings. They also receive expenses to go to any of these events. They are encouraged to be at these events. What the proposed bill does is it collapses these two boards into one so that would save something on commission expenses going forward. There would just be one commission. There were three events in 2006. There are 15 scheduled now in 2011 at this point in time. The fan base has been growing and the attendance has been growing.

**Rep. Roscoe Streyle:** With that information they have a positive cash flow now. I see no need to put a minimum on. I support stripping that out.

**Rep. Lonny Winrich:** Is this the bill where we tabled the do pass? I will move that we remove the bill from the table.

**Vice Chairman Randy Boehning** seconded the motion.

**A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.**

**Chairman Bette Grande:** Did the secretary of state talk about that \$500 minimum? I thought he had a reason why there was that.

**Rep. Mark Sanford:** I think he put that there simply because they had a couple of experiences in the past where they spent the costs and the event was not very successful so they literally swallowed the expenses of the whole deal. From my visit with him there was one or two of these events that didn't get to the \$500 number so it would be rare and probably not necessary to have that.

**Vice Chairman Randy Boehning:** I am going to resist that motion to strip that \$500. If these promoters are going to promote events and they don't have enough money to generate and the secretary of state's office has to pick up the tab, I don't think that is fair to the other promoters. I think a \$500 fee is quite reasonable.

**Chairman Bette Grande:** I am in agreement. If we have an event that is coming to the state, the taxpayer shouldn't be asked to pay for it. They should be able to cover their own expenses. The secretary of state's dollars are taxpayers' dollars.

**Rep. Lonny Winrich:** It is a truly remarkable day that I am in agreement with both the chairman and the vice chairman of this committee. One more point from Rep. Sanford's presentation. If we have to send two staff people to each one of these events to supervise the weigh ins and so on, that quickly eats up probably more than \$500 in expenses. I don't think it is unreasonable to leave that minimum in.

**Chairman Bette Grande:** We are not going to look at amending out the \$500. This bill in front of us is with the secretary of state's amendments. It had been moved as a do pass as amended by **Rep. Sanford** and seconded by **Rep. Karls**.

**DO PASS AS AMENDED, 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT. Rep. Mark Sanford is the carrier of this bill.**



March 25, 2011

VR  
3/25/11

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2286

Page 1, line 2, remove "combative sports"

Page 1, line 2, after "commissioner" insert "of combative sports"

Page 1, line 7, remove "**combative sports**"

Page 1, line 7, after "**commission**" insert "**of combative sports**"

Page 1, line 8, remove "combative sports"

Page 1, line 8, after "commissioner" insert "of combative sports"

Page 1, line 10, remove "combative sports"

Page 1, line 10, after "commission" insert "of combative sports"

Page 1, line 19, remove "**combative sports**"

Page 1, line 19, after "**commissioner**" insert "**of combative sports**"

Page 2, line 11, remove "combative sports"

Page 2, line 11, after "commission" insert "of combative sports"

Page 2, line 23, remove "combative sports"

Page 2, line 23, after "commission" insert "of combative sports"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3-18-11  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2286

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Sanford Seconded By Steiner

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No.
Chairman Bette Grande			Bill Amerman		
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Ron Guggisberg		
Glen Froseth			Lonny Winrich		
Karen Karls					
Lisa Meier					
Gary Paur					
Karen Rohr					
Mark Sanford					
Vicky Steiner					
Roscoe Streyle					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*voice  
vote to  
accept  
amendment  
motion  
carried*

Date: 3-18-11  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2286

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment  
 Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Sanford Seconded By Karls

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Bette Grande			Bill Amerman		
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Ron Guggisberg		
Glen Froseth			Lonny Winrich		
Karen Karls					
Lisa Meier					
Gary Paur					
Karen Rohr					
Mark Sanford					
Vicky Steiner					
Roscoe Streyle					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 3-18-11  
Roll Call Vote #: 3

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2286

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment  
 Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Winrich Seconded By Steiner

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Bette Grande			Bill Amerman		
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Ron Guggisberg		
Glen Froseth			Lonny Winrich		
Karen Karls					
Lisa Meier					
Gary Paur					
Karen Rohr					
Mark Sanford					
Vicky Steiner					
Roscoe Streyle					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*voice vote  
to table 2286  
motion carried*

Date: 3-25-11  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2286

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Winrich Seconded By Boehning

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Bette Grande			Bill Amerman		
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Ron Guggisberg		
Glen Froseth			Lonny Winrich		
Karen Karls					
Lisa Meier					
Gary Paur					
Karen Rohr					
Mark Sanford					
Vicky Steiner					
Roscoe Streyle					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*voice vote  
to remove  
bill from  
table  
motion carried*

Date: 3-25-11  
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2286

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Sanford Seconded By Karls

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Bette Grande	✓		Bill Amerman	✓	
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning	✓		Ron Guggisberg	✓	
Glen Froseth			Lonny Winrich	✓	
Karen Karls	✓				
Lisa Meier					
Gary Paur	✓				
Karen Rohr	✓				
Mark Sanford	✓				
Vicky Steiner	✓				
Roscoe Streyle	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Sanford

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2286, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Grande, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2286 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.**

Page 1, line 2, remove "combative sports"

Page 1, line 2, after "commissioner" insert "of combative sports"

Page 1, line 7, remove "**combative sports**"

Page 1, line 7, after "**commission**" insert "**of combative sports**"

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Renumber accordingly

2011 TESTIMONY

SB 2286



ALVIN A. JAEGER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

February 4, 2011

TO: Senator Dever, Chairman, and Members of the Senate Government & Veterans Affairs Committee

FR: Al Jaeger, Secretary of State

RE: SB 2286 – Combative Sports Commissioner – Boxing and Mixed Fighting Styles

I appreciate and thank Senator Sorvaag for introducing this bill on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The purpose of this bill is to change the name of one of the Secretary of State's hats from the State Athletic Commissioner to the State Combative Sports to more correctly identify the duty connected with the title.

I also request the committee's consideration of the attached amendment that corrects references that were overlooked in the original draft.

Finally, for your review, I have attached a history of this particular duty, the duties of the Secretary of State relating to the regulation of these sports, and the past and future schedule of events.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2286

Page 1, line 11, overstrike "The"

Page 1, overstrike line 12

Page 1, line 13, overstrike "include one or more members of the athletic advisory board."

Page 1, line 14, overstrike "each board" and insert immediately thereafter "the commission", and overstrike "Board" and insert immediately thereafter "Commission"

Renumber accordingly

## Chapter Seven

### *Administrative/Licensing Unit*

This division has a multitude of responsibilities and duties. They range from filing documents of the legislature to the regulation of boxing and mixed fighting styles. The division is also responsible for the accounting functions of the agency. Most of the revenue generated by this division is from the collection of fees related to the issuance of contractor licenses, registration of charitable organization, registration of lobbyists, and the commissioning of notaries. The details of these functions are as follows:

#### **Athletic Commissioner**

According to Chapter 53-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, the Secretary of State is the state athletic commissioner and administers matters relating to the regulation of boxing, kickboxing, sparring and, as of July 1, 2005, mixed fighting style competition. The Secretary of State may appoint an athletic advisory board to assist and advise the athletic commissioner in the performance of the respective duties of the position.

The first state athletic commission was created by the legislature in 1935 with House Bill 213 (1935 Session Laws, Chapter 91). The commission included the Commissioner of Labor and Agriculture, a practicing physician and a practicing attorney appointed by the Governor. Interestingly, the law was specific in stating that not only were the appointees to be citizens of the state, but also of good moral character.

Over the years, the law was changed very little. Then, in 1967, the position of Commissioner of Labor and Agriculture was divided into two separate statewide offices with the Commissioner of Agriculture retaining the duties relating to the athletic commission.

Four years later, in 1971, the Legislative Assembly adopted Senate Bill 2078 and transferred the duties of the athletic commissioner to the Secretary of State and eliminated the three person athletic commission (1971 Session Laws, Chapter 484). However, at the same time, the provisions of the law were such that they did not apply to boxing exhibitions where the net proceeds of the event were devoted to charitable purposes. Consequently, while the law was again modified in 1987 by House Bill 1074 (1987 Session Laws, Chapter 607) and in 1989 by Senate Bill 2184 (1987 Session Laws, Chapter 609), most boxing exhibitions were promoted on behalf of charitable purposes. Therefore, there was no state oversight.

However, that changed in 1991 when major changes were made to the laws governing boxing. In that year, the Fifty-second Legislative Assembly adopted Senate Bill 2411 (1991 Session Laws, Chapter 543), which became effective July 1, 1991. With its passage, the duties of the athletic commissioner became much more defined. The law also allowed for the creation of an athletic advisory board and allowed for a much better response and regulation to the growing boxing activity that was taking place within the state of North Dakota. Since one of the major duties of the athletic commissioner is to ensure the safety of the boxers, the restructured law made those duties easier to administer.

The athletic advisory board has nine members. They are appointed by the Secretary of State and have terms of three years. Each year, three members are newly appointed or re-appointed to the board. This process provides for continuity from year-to-year as the members assist and advise the athletic commissioner.

Revenue from the issuing of licenses is deposited into a special fund as provided for in Section 53-01-09 of the North Dakota Century Code. Licenses are issued to the boxers, referees, judges, corner persons, managers, ringside officials, and promoters. During the 2007-2009 biennium, 242 licenses were issued. The fees collected ranged from \$10 for a boxer to \$100 for a promoter.

The following boxing exhibitions were held during the biennium (date, location, and promoter).

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August 25, 2007, Playmakers, Fargo, Brothers Promotions  
October 27, 2007, Prairie Knights Casino, Fort Yates, Dakota Nation's Young Guns Promotions  
May 17, 2008, Prairie Knights Casino, Fort Yates, Dakota Nation's Young Guns Promotions  
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During the 2005 legislative session, Senate Bill 2356 (2005 Session Laws, Chapter 464) was adopted, which resulted in a significant addition to the duties of the State Athletic Commissioner. The legislation authorized "mixed fighting style competition" and as defined in the law "means an advertised or professionally promoted exhibition or contest for which any type of admission fee is charged and in which the participants who inflict or employ kicks, punches, blows, holds, and other techniques to injure, stun, choke, incapacitate, or disable an opponent. The techniques may include a combination of boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, grappling, or other recognized martial arts." Although legally described as mixed fighting style, the common vernacular reference is mixed martial arts.

The legislation authorized an advisory board, similar in structure to the boxing advisory board, to advise the Athletic Commissioner specifically on mixed fighting style competition. As adopted in the legislations, these competitions could only occur upon adoption of administrative rules. In order to make sure the rules were the very best they could be, a working group of individuals knowledgeable in the sport and the Secretary of State's office drafted the rules over a period of several months. The rules, Chapter 72-02.2-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, were approved and became effective on October 1, 2006. The first mixed fighting style event was held on October 7, 2006, in the Bismarck Civic Center.

As with boxing, the revenue from the issuing of licenses is deposited into a special fund as provided for in Section 53-01-09 of the North Dakota Century Code. Licenses are issued to the participants, referees, timekeepers, judges, corner persons, managers, and promoters. During the 2007-2009 biennium, 662 licenses were issued.

The following mixed fighting styles events were held during the biennium (date, location, and promoter).

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October 6, 2007, Bismarck Civic Center, Bismarck, Monte Cox  
November 10, 2007, 4-Bears Casino & Resort, New Town, Palace Fighting Championship  
January 26, 2008, Fargo Civic, Fargo, M.A.X. Fights LLC  
April 26, 2008, Fargo Civic, Fargo, M.A.X. Fights LLC  
May 10, 2008, 4-Bears Casino & Resort, New Town, 4-Bears Casino  
July 29, 2008, Fargo Civic, Fargo, M.A.X. Fights LLC  
September 7, 2008, Dickinson Recreation Center, Dickinson, Pound E'm Productions  
October 11, 2008, 4-Bears Casino & Resort, New Town, 4-Bears Casino  
October 18, 2008, Raymond Center, Williston, Mad Dog Productions  
February 7, 2009, Fargo Civic, Fargo, Dakota Fighting Championships  
March 21, 2009, 4-Bears Casino & Resort, New Town, Jon Hegre  
March 28, 2009, Dakota Magic Casino, Hankinson, The Cage Inc.  
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June 12, 2009, Dakota Magic Casino, Hankinson, The Cage Inc.



SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
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January 17, 2011

## DUTIES RELATED TO THE STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSIONER

### Preparation

- At least a couple of weeks in advance get fight card from promoter
  - Check Fightfax for suspensions, record, opponents, etc
  - Check [stats.mixedmartialarts.com](http://stats.mixedmartialarts.com) for suspensions, record, opponents, etc
    - Identify any suspensions and potential remedies.
    - Call suspending states/jurisdictions for clarification
  - Check MMA/Boxing website for any additional information
    - Boxrec
    - [Mixedmartialarts.com](http://Mixedmartialarts.com)
    - [Sherdog.com](http://Sherdog.com)
  - Be prepared for calls from the promoter asking about "potential" match ups, which may or may not actually turn into fights.
  - If they are out of state, call commission in the state in which they reside to get a sense of their skill level.
  - If they are new and/or had a substantial lay-off or appear to be stepping up significantly in skill level, call manager, trainer, etc.
  - Compile all relevant information in a spreadsheet and send out to the commission for their thoughts/input.
  - Understand that the 2 week out card is going to be significantly different from the actual card.
  - The day of weigh ins, recheck all suspensions in case they fought in the last couple of days.
- At least a couple of weeks in advance review with promoter the Promoter's responsibilities, of particular note:
  - Gloves, what are and are not acceptable gloves. Have them provide you with a sample if need be.
  - Purse money; make sure the promoter understands that they must provide cash or some sort of certified payment. We have no prohibition against payment by check, we just need to have something to ensure that we can get the fighters paid if case the check bounces
  - Ring/Cage set up – find out what they are using and as much information about it as you can get.
  - Make sure the promoter understands the security requirements for the ring/cageside area.

- Insurance requirements. Print extra copies of the claims forms.
- Instruct the promoter regarding who gets to sit in the cageside area and requests need to be handled through the commission.
- Remind the promoter of the blood work and licensing requirements and encourage them to get that information to Mary/Linda early if possible.
- If the promoter is new, you will get questions regarding contracts and the elements you are looking for. What I want to see is Fighter's name, opponent's name, number of rounds, amount of payment.
- Get a list of the officials the promoter plans on using.

- **Weigh In's.**

- Show up 2 hours early and instruct the promoter to do the same
- Review the contracts as they come in to ensure a meeting of the minds.
  - Many promoters will bring the unsigned contracts to the event and have the fighters sign at weigh ins.
  - Note the contracted weight and purse on the weigh in sheet.
- Direct fighters to the licensing table
- Receive from promoter; purse money and gloves.
- Ensure any additional license paperwork is submitted.
- When you have the signed contracts for the fighters that are on-time and present, stop the licensing process and get the fighters on the scale.
- Do your best to start on time as some fighters have cut significant weight
- When a fighter misses weight and legally cannot cut any enough weight to make the fight happen, the fight is off (fighter who made weight gets paid show money) or the contract can be renegotiated to a catch weight. Make sure to witness any changes in the contracts and have the fighters and promoters initial (See rule book for weigh cutting limits).
- If all fighters are present at the weigh in and the venue allows, do your fighter meeting that night. With a follow up for any questions day of show
- If not all the fighters are present, advise their opponents that you will let them watch the weigh ins if they desire, or instruct them that you will ensure that the fighter makes weight. Get their phone number and give them yours to call them to let them know when their opponents weigh in will be to see if they would like to come, or to call to let them know they made weight.
- Often times you will have people coming in from long distances and may have to have an early morning weigh in, be sure to follow the 24 hour to 8 hour rule.
- Advise all fighters of what needs to be completed that night (weigh in, license, prefight physical).
- Instruct the fighters to be at the venue 2 hours before start time.

- **Pre fight**

- After weigh ins or early the next day work with Mary/Linda to assign officials. Be cognizant of recent performances, particularly in the assignment of officials to what you consider "dangerous" fights or title fights.
- Make arrangements to get into the venue as soon as the ring/cage is set up so you can make any changes to set up if need be. I tend to go mid afternoon.
- Show up to the venue 3 hours prior to start time.

- Meet with venue personnel to ensure there are enough chairs around ringside and to reconfigure the ringside area if need be.
- Meet with security to discuss any previous or potential issues.
- When the promoter arrives, ensure they have adequately marketed the locker rooms.
- When the fighters arrive, conduct fighter meeting or follow up meeting if you had one the night before. Fit gloves.
- Have commission members start to watch hands being wrapped.
- Meet with doctor to review expectations and their responsibilities
- Make sure the ambulance is present and meet with EMT's to review expectations and their responsibilities. Introduce the doctor if you haven't done so yet.
- Meet with judges and review the basics of the 10 point must system as well as how MMA fights are scored
- Meet with referees to discuss the particulars of the event, any special concerns or problems you may have with a fighter. If you are fighting in a ring be sure to discuss with the promoter how you want to handle getting tangled up in the ropes. Your two options are reposition and restart standing. Reposition takes a skilled official.
- Make sure referee completes their physical.
- Make sure the ringside area is adequately and correctly signed. Doctor needs to be close to a door.
- Have a brief discussion with ring announcer if he is new; explain how the process works and that he will be receiving the official results from the scorer.
- I have made it a practice to remind the ring girls that there is no alcohol within the secured area.
- Be prepared for a myriad of questions, stuff that didn't come up at the rules meeting, questions on hand wrapping, upcoming events, when payouts are, etc, etc.
- Don't be surprised if you get last minute press that would like to be seated cage side. I always do my best to accommodate.

- **Fights – The Events**

- Commissioners should be assigned to all fighters.
- Someone from the commission should be ringside to watch the fight. In particular need to be paying attention to:
  - How you would score the fight
  - The performance of the referee
  - Any potential controversy
  - And to serve as the go to person if there are any questions of rules and/or regulation interpretation. We have found out, more and more how important that is of late.
  - If there is an injury, be prepared to get into the ring to direct traffic. Make sure the doctor has unfettered access to the injured fighter. That being said, use your best judgment, there are times when the corner people should not be allowed in the ring, and others when you should allow them in. In particular, for a KO, it is sometimes better for them, in my opinion, to see a familiar face.
- Be prepared to deal with any issues or concerns that arise from a controversial stoppage of judge's decision. The officials do not have to deal with angry corner people and/or managers. That is the job of the lead commissioner.
- Try to keep the contest moving on schedule

- Makes sure that the fighters are aware of the remaining time on intermission, coordinate with the promoter and the ring announcer. Make sure fighters are staged when you give the ring announcer the go ahead.
  - Make note of any injuries sustained or claimed during the fights for suspension purposes
  - Either have someone at ringside, or instruct the fighter's commissioner to check for Vaseline.
  - Direct the fighters to the doctor if applicable for post fights
- **Immediately Post fight**
    - Walkthrough the locker rooms to ensure no one needs additional medical attention
    - Release the doctor and the EMT's
    - Meet with Linda/Mary to identify suspensions. We try to get them into the hands of the fighters that night as we have a large percentage of our mail to fighters returned.
    - General guidelines
      - KO – 90 days
      - TKO – 30 day
      - Severe lacerations – 7 day mandatory + doctor must clear (prefight physical OK)
      - Injury – Indefinite - doctor must clear injury (note from doctor required). Try to be specific
      - Punitive suspensions – use your best judgment. Currently suspension is our only tool we have to enforce compliance. We can't fine.
      - Particularly grueling fights – feel free to suspend both fighters.
      - All fighters, minimum 7 days
    - Identify a place for payouts and try to get some semblance of order.
    - Make sure fighters are paid their contracted purse and have them sign the contract indicating such.
    - Explain to them the nature of their suspension.
- **Monday after the fight**
    - Review the fight results for accuracy. In particular pay attention to:
      - Winner
      - Method of Victory
      - Suspension
    - Prepare a post event recap for the commissioners to comment on
- **Post fight**
    - Be prepared to field phone calls from promoters, matchmakers and fighters regarding results and/or suspensions
    - Deal with any press related questions resulting from the event.
    - Check stats.mixedmartialarts.com and Fightfax for the accurate recording of suspensions. You can also see if a suspended fighter has a scheduled event that is recorded in the system.
    - Hold a post event discussion with the promoter regarding what worked and what did not, based on the commission's post event recap. Solicit from the promoter ways that we as a commission can do things better and what problems they may have had with us.



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TOLL FREE 1-800-352-0867

E-MAIL [ndmartialarts@nd.gov](mailto:ndmartialarts@nd.gov)  
HOME PAGE [www.nd.gov/sos](http://www.nd.gov/sos)

The State Athletic Commission will regulate a maximum of 2 events in any given month.

## 2011

February 5, 2011 Jon Hegre at Minot, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

February 26, 2011 Impact Fighting Championship LLC at Prairie Knights  
Casino, Ft. Yates, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

March 19, 2011 M.A.X. Fights LLC at Fargo, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

April 16, 2011 Impact Fighting Championship LLC at Bismarck, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

April 29, 2011 Crowbar MMA at Fargo, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

May 7, 2011 Pound'Em Productions at Dickinson, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

May 21, 2011 Impact Fighting Championship LLC at Williston, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

## NO FIGHTS IN JULY

September 17, 2011 Crowbar MMA at Grand Forks, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

September 24, 2011 Pound'Em Productions at Dickinson, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

October 14, 2011 Impact Fighting Championship LLC at Jamestown, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

December 10, 2011 Impact Fighting Championship LLC at Bismarck, ND

*(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)*

# SECRETARY OF STATE

## NORTH DAKOTA



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### Mixed Fighting Style

2011

- [January 22, M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (24kb pdf)
- [January 15, The Cage, Inc.](#) (25kb pdf)

2010

- [December 10, Crowbar MMA](#) (25kb pdf)
- [November 19, The Cage, Inc.](#) (24kb pdf)
- [October 30, 2010 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (25kb pdf)
- [October 23, 2010 Impact Fighting Championships, LLC](#) (25kb pdf)
- [September 25, 2010 Pound Em Productions](#) (25kb pdf)
- [September 11, 2010 Crowbar LLC](#) (25kb pdf)
- [August 21, 2010 The Cage, Inc.](#) (24kb pdf)
- [May 15, 2010 The Cage, Inc.](#) (24kb pdf)
- [May 1, 2010 Pound Em Productions LLC](#) (24kb pdf)
- [April 24, 2010 Dakota Fighting Championships](#) (25kb pdf)
- [March 20, 2010 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (24kb pdf)
- [February 20, 2010 The Cage, Inc.](#) (24kb pdf)
- [January 23, 2010 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (26kb pdf)

2009

- [December 19, 2009 The Cage, Inc.](#) (24kb pdf)
- [December 12, 2009 Brutaal](#) (23kb pdf)
- [November 14, 2009 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (25kb pdf)
- [October 24, 2009 Jon Hegre](#) (21kb pdf)
- [October 10, 2009 Dakota Fighting Promotions](#) (24kb pdf)
- [October 3, 2009 Vindictive Entertainment, Inc.](#) (21kb pdf)
- [September 12, 2009 Pound Em Productions LLC](#) (26kb pdf)
- [August 29, 2009 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (25kb pdf)
- [June 12, 2009 The Cage, Inc.](#) (25kb pdf)
- [May 30, 2009 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (26kb pdf)
- [March 28, 2009 The Cage, Inc.](#) (72kb pdf)
- [March 21, 2009 Four Bears Casino](#) (97kb pdf)

- [February 7, 2009 Dakota Fighting Championships \(71kb pdf\)](#)

2008

- [October 18, 2008 Mad Dog Productions \(82kb pdf\)](#)
- [October 11, 2008 Four Bears Casino \(92kb pdf\)](#)
- [September 7, 2008 Pound Em Productions LLC \(110kb pdf\)](#)
- [July 29, 2008 M.A.X. Fights LLC \(80kb pdf\)](#)
- [May 12, 2008 Four Bears Casino \(77kb pdf\)](#)
- [April 26, 2008 M.A.X. Fights LLC \(77kb pdf\)](#)
- [January 26, 2008 M.A.X. Fights LLC \(133kb pdf\)](#)

2007

- [November 10, 2007 Palace Fighting Championship \(122kb pdf\)](#)
- [October 6, 2007 Monte Cox \(123kb pdf\)](#)
- [September 7, 2007 M.A.X. Fights LLC \(138kb pdf\)](#)
- [August 25, 2007 Brothers Promotions \(64kb pdf\)](#)
- [August 11, 2007 KO Productions \(138kb pdf\)](#)
- [May 12, 2007 XS Combat Sports LLC \(97kb pdf\)](#)
- [April 21, 2007 Chad Neal Promotions \(122kb pdf\)](#)
- [March 24, 2007 XS Combat Sports LLC \(126kb pdf\)](#)
- [February 3, 2007 KO JAG Promotions \(123kb pdf\)](#)

2006

- [December 2, 2006 Dakota Fighting Championships \(131kb pdf\)](#)
- [October 28, 2006 KO JAG Promotions \(117kb pdf\)](#)
- [October 7, 2006 Dakota Fighting Championships \(116kb pdf\)](#)

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SECRETARY OF STATE

PAGE www.nd.gov/sos



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*Attachment 1  
2286*

PHONE (701) 328-2900

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E-MAIL sos@nd.gov

March 11, 2011

TO: Rep. Grande, Chairman, and Members of the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee

FR: Al Jaeger, Secretary of State

RE: SB 2286 – Commissioner of Combative Sports – Boxing and Mixed Fighting Styles

I appreciate and thank Senator Sorvaag for introducing this bill on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The purpose of this bill is to change the name of one of the Secretary of State's hats from the "State Athletic Commissioner" to a name that more correctly identifies the duties connected with the position.

When the bill was considered on the Senate floor, a question was asked about the proposed name change. We agreed with the observation that was made. As a result, I now request the committee's consideration of the attached amendment. It changes the name, as proposed in the original bill, from the "combative sports commissioner" to the "commissioner of combative sports".

Finally, for your review, I have attached a history of this particular duty, the duties of the Secretary of State relating to the regulation of these sports, and the past and future schedule of events.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2286

Page 1, line 2, replace "combative sports commissioner" with "commissioner of combative sports"

Page 1, line 7, replace "combative sports commission" with "commission of combative sports"

Page 1, line 8, remove "combative sports" and after "commissioner" insert "of combative sports"

Page 1, line 10, replace "combative sports commission" with "commission of combative sports"

Page 1, line 19, remove "combative sports" and after "commissioner" insert "of combative sports"

Page 2, line 11, replace "combative sports commission" with "commission of combative sports"

Page 2, line 23, replace "combative sports commission" with "commission of combative sports"

Renumber accordingly

## Chapter Seven

### ***Administrative/Licensing Unit***

This division has a multitude of responsibilities and duties. They range from filing documents of the legislature to the regulation of boxing and mixed fighting styles. The division is also responsible for the accounting functions of the agency. Most of the revenue generated by this division is from the collection of fees related to the issuance of contractor licenses, registration of charitable organization, registration of lobbyists, and the commissioning of notaries. The details of these functions are as follows:

#### **Athletic Commissioner**

According to Chapter 53-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, the Secretary of State is the state athletic commissioner and administers matters relating to the regulation of boxing, kickboxing, sparring and, as of July 1, 2005, mixed fighting style competition. The Secretary of State may appoint an athletic advisory boards to assist and advise the athletic commissioner in the performance of the respective duties of the position.

The first state athletic commission was created by the legislature in 1935 with House Bill 213 (1935 Session Laws, Chapter 91). The commission included the Commissioner of Labor and Agriculture, a practicing physician and a practicing attorney appointed by the Governor. Interestingly, the law was specific in stating that not only were the appointees to be citizens of the state, but also of good moral character.

Over the years, the law was changed very little. Then, in 1967, the position of Commissioner of Labor and Agriculture was divided into two separate statewide offices with the Commissioner of Agriculture retaining the duties relating to the athletic commission.

Four years later, in 1971, the Legislative Assembly adopted Senate Bill 2078 and transferred the duties of the athletic commissioner to the Secretary of State and eliminated the three person athletic commission (1971 Session Laws, Chapter 484). However, at the same time, the provisions of the law were such that they did not apply to boxing exhibitions where the net proceeds of the event were devoted to charitable purposes. Consequently, while the law was again modified in 1987 by House Bill 1074 (1987 Session Laws, Chapter 607) and in 1989 by Senate Bill 2184 (1987 Session Laws, Chapter 609), most boxing exhibitions were promoted on behalf of charitable purposes. Therefore, there was no state oversight.

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February 7, 2009, Fargo Civic, Fargo, Dakota Fighting Championships  
March 21, 2009, 4-Bears Casino & Resort, New Town, Jon Hegre  
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May 30, 2009, Urban Plains Center, Fargo, M.A.X. Fights LLC  
June 12, 2009, Dakota Magic Casino, Hankinson, The Cage Inc.



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  - If they are out of state, call commission in the state in which they reside to get a sense of their skill level.
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  - Ring/Cage set up – find out what they are using and as much information about it as you can get.
  - Make sure the promoter understands the security requirements for the ring/cageside area.



- Insurance requirements. Print extra copies of the claims forms.
  - Instruct the promoter regarding who gets to sit in the cageside area and requests need to be handled through the commission.
  - Remind the promoter of the blood work and licensing requirements and encourage them to get that information to Mary/Linda early if possible.
  - If the promoter is new, you will get questions regarding contracts and the elements you are looking for. What I want to see is Fighter's name, opponent's name, number of rounds, amount of payment.
  - Get a list of the officials the promoter plans on using.
- **Weigh In's.**
    - Show up 2 hours early and instruct the promoter to do the same
    - Review the contracts as they come in to ensure a meeting of the minds.
      - Many promoters will bring the unsigned contracts to the event and have the fighters sign at weigh ins.
      - Note the contracted weight and purse on the weigh in sheet.
    - Direct fighters to the licensing table
    - Receive from promoter; purse money and gloves.
    - Ensure any additional license, paperwork is submitted.
    - When you have the signed contracts for the fighters that are on-time and present, stop the licensing process and get the fighters on the scale.
    - Do your best to start on time as some fighters have cut significant weight
    - When a fighter misses weight and legally cannot cut any enough weight to make the fight happen, the fight is off (fighter who made weight gets paid show money) or the contract can be renegotiated to a catch weight. Make sure to witness any changes in the contracts and have the fighters and promoters initial (See rule book for weigh cutting limits).
    - If all fighters are present at the weigh in and the venue allows, do your fighter meeting that night. With a follow up for any questions day of show
    - If not all the fighters are present, advise their opponents that you will let them watch the weigh ins if they desire, or instruct them that you will ensure that the fighter makes weight. Get their phone number and give them yours to call them to let them know when their opponents weigh in will be to see if they would like to come, or to call to let them know they made weight.
    - Often times you will have people coming in from long distances and may have to have an early morning weigh in, be sure to follow the 24 hour to 8 hour rule.
    - Advise all fighters of what needs to be completed that night (weigh in, license, prefight physical).
    - Instruct the fighters to be at the venue 2 hours before start time.
- **Pre fight**
    - After weigh ins or early the next day work with Mary/Linda to assign officials. Be cognizant of recent performances, particularly in the assignment of officials to what you consider "dangerous" fights or title fights.
    - Make arrangements to get into the venue as soon as the ring/cage is set up so you can make any changes to set up if need be. I tend to go mid afternoon.
    - Show up to the venue 3 hours prior to start time.

- Meet with venue personnel to ensure there are enough chairs around ringside and to reconfigure the ringside area if need be.
- Meet with security to discuss any previous or potential issues.
- When the promoter arrives, ensure they have adequately marketed the locker rooms.
- When the fighters arrive, conduct fighter meeting or follow up meeting if you had one the night before. Fit gloves.
- Have commission members start to watch hands being wrapped.
- Meet with doctor to review expectations and their responsibilities
- Make sure the ambulance is present and meet with EMT's to review expectations and their responsibilities. Introduce the doctor if you haven't done so yet.
- Meet with judges and review the basics of the 10 point must system as well as how MMA fights are scored
- Meet with referees to discuss the particulars of the event, any special concerns or problems you may have with a fighter. If you are fighting in a ring be sure to discuss with the promoter how you want to handle getting tangled up in the ropes. Your two options are reposition and restart standing. Reposition takes a skilled official.
- Make sure referee completes their physical.
- Make sure the ringside area is adequately and correctly signed. Doctor needs to be close to a door.
- Have a brief discussion with ring announcer if he is new; explain how the process works and that he will be receiving the official results from the scorer.
- I have made it a practice to remind the ring girls that there is no alcohol within the secured area.
- Be prepared for a myriad of questions, stuff that didn't come up at the rules meeting, questions on hand wrapping, upcoming events, when payouts are, etc, etc.
- Don't be surprised if you get last minute press that would like to be seated cage side. I always do my best to accommodate.

- **Fights – The Events**

- Commissioners should be assigned to all fighters.
- Someone from the commission should be ringside to watch the fight. In particular need to be paying attention to:
  - How you would score the fight
  - The performance of the referee
  - Any potential controversy
  - And to serve as the go to person if there are any questions of rules and/or regulation interpretation. We have found out, more and more how important that is of late.
  - If there is an injury, be prepared to get into the ring to direct traffic. Make sure the doctor has unfettered access to the injured fighter. That being said, use your best judgment, there are times when the corner people should not be allowed in the ring, and others when you should allow them in. In particular, for a KO, it is sometimes better for them, in my opinion, to see a familiar face.
- Be prepared to deal with any issues or concerns that arise from a controversial stoppage of judge's decision. The officials do not have to deal with angry corner people and/or managers. That is the job of the lead commissioner.
- Try to keep the contest moving on schedule

- Makes sure that the fighters are aware of the remaining time on intermission, coordinate with the promoter and the ring announcer. Make sure fighters are staged when you give the ring announcer the go ahead.
  - Make note of any injuries sustained or claimed during the fights for suspension purposes
  - Either have someone at ringside, or instruct the fighter's commissioner to check for Vaseline.
  - Direct the fighters to the doctor if applicable for post fights
- **Immediately Post fight**
    - Walkthrough the locker rooms to ensure no one needs additional medical attention
    - Release the doctor and the EMT's
    - Meet with Linda/Mary to identify suspensions. We try to get them into the hands of the fighters that night as we have a large percentage of our mail to fighters returned.
    - General guidelines
      - KO – 90 days
      - TKO – 30 day
      - Severe lacerations – 7 day mandatory + doctor must clear (prefight physical OK)
      - Injury – Indefinite - doctor must clear injury (note from doctor required). Try to be specific
      - Punitive suspensions – use your best judgment. Currently suspension is our only tool we have to enforce compliance. We can't fine.
      - Particularly grueling fights – feel free to suspend both fighters.
      - All fighters, minimum 7 days
    - Identify a place for payouts and try to get some semblance of order.
    - Make sure fighters are paid their contracted purse and have them sign the contract indicating such.
    - Explain to them the nature of their suspension.
- **Monday after the fight**
    - Review the fight results for accuracy. In particular pay attention to:
      - Winner
      - Method of Victory
      - Suspension
    - Prepare a post event recap for the commissioners to comment on
- **Post fight**
    - Be prepared to field phone calls from promoters, matchmakers and fighters regarding results and/or suspensions
    - Deal with any press related questions resulting from the event.
    - Check stats.mixedmartialarts.com and Fightfax for the accurate recording of suspensions. You can also see if a suspended fighter has a scheduled event that is recorded in the system.
    - Hold a post event discussion with the promoter regarding what worked and what did not, based on the commission's post event recap. Solicit from the promoter ways that we as a commission can do things better and what problems they may have had with us.

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The State Athletic Commission will regulate a maximum of 2 events in any given month.

## **2011**

March 19, 2011 M.A.X. Fights LLC at Fargo, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

April 16, 2011 Impact Fighting Championship LLC at Bismarck, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

April 29, 2011 Crowbar MMA at Fargo, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

May 7, 2011 Pound'Em Productions at Dickinson, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

May 21, 2011 Impact Fighting Championship LLC at Williston, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

June 4, 2011 Sports Sponsors LLC at Minot, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

## **NO FIGHTS IN JULY**

September 17, 2011 Crowbar MMA at Grand Forks, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

September 24, 2011 Pound'Em Productions at Dickinson, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

October 8, 2011 Sports Sponsors LLC at Minot, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

October 15, 2011 Impact Fighting Championship LLC at Jamestown, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

December 10, 2011 Impact Fighting Championship LLC at Bismarck, ND  
(MIXED FIGHTING STYLE)

# SECRETARY OF STATE

## NORTH DAKOTA

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### Mixed Fighting Style

2011

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- [February 5, Sports Sponsors LLC](#) (24kb pdf)
- [January 22, M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (24kb pdf)
- [January 15, The Cage, Inc.](#) (25kb pdf)

2010

- [December 10, Crowbar MMA](#) (25kb pdf)
- [November 19, The Cage, Inc.](#) (24kb pdf)
- [October 30, 2010 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (25kb pdf)
- [October 23, 2010 Impact Fighting Championships, LLC](#) (25kb pdf)
- [September 25, 2010 Pound Em Productions](#) (25kb pdf)
- [September 11, 2010 Crowbar LLC](#) (25kb pdf)
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- [May 15, 2010 The Cage, Inc.](#) (24kb pdf)
- [May 1, 2010 Pound Em Productions LLC](#) (24kb pdf)
- [April 24, 2010 Dakota Fighting Championships](#) (25kb pdf)
- [March 20, 2010 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (24kb pdf)
- [February 20, 2010 The Cage, Inc.](#) (24kb pdf)
- [January 23, 2010 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (26kb pdf)

2009

- [December 19, 2009 The Cage, Inc.](#) (24kb pdf)
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- [November 14, 2009 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (25kb pdf)
- [October 24, 2009 Jon Hegre](#) (21kb pdf)
- [October 10, 2009 Dakota Fighting Promotions](#) (24kb pdf)
- [October 3, 2009 Vindictive Entertainment, Inc.](#) (21kb pdf)
- [September 12, 2009 Pound Em Productions LLC](#) (26kb pdf)
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- [June 12, 2009 The Cage, Inc.](#) (25kb pdf)
- [May 30, 2009 M.A.X. Fights LLC](#) (26kb pdf)

- [March 28, 2009 The Cage, Inc. \(72kb pdf\)](#)
- [March 21, 2009 Four Bears Casino \(97kb pdf\)](#)
- [February 7, 2009 Dakota Fighting Championships \(71kb pdf\)](#)

## 2008

- [October 18, 2008 Mad Dog Productions \(82kb pdf\)](#)
- [October 11, 2008 Four Bears Casino \(92kb pdf\)](#)
- [September 7, 2008 Pound Em Productions LLC \(110kb pdf\)](#)
- [July 29, 2008 M.A.X. Fights LLC \(80kb pdf\)](#)
- [May 12, 2008 Four Bears Casino \(77kb pdf\)](#)
- [April 26, 2008 M.A.X. Fights LLC \(77kb pdf\)](#)
- [January 26, 2008 M.A.X. Fights LLC \(133kb pdf\)](#)

## 2007

- [November 10, 2007 Palace Fighting Championship \(122kb pdf\)](#)
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- [August 25, 2007 Brothers Promotions \(64kb pdf\)](#)
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- [April 21, 2007 Chad Neal Promotions \(122kb pdf\)](#)
- [March 24, 2007 XS Combat Sports LLC \(126kb pdf\)](#)
- [February 3, 2007 KO JAG Promotions \(123kb pdf\)](#)

## 2006

- [December 2, 2006 Dakota Fighting Championships \(131kb pdf\)](#)
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