

By: Senator(s) DeLano

To: Government Structure;
Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2580

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 75-75-103, SECTION
2 75-75-105, 75-75-107, 75-75-109, 75-75-111, 75-75-113, 75-75-114,
3 75-75-115, 75-75-117, 75-75-119, 75-75-121 AND 75-75-123,
4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, REGARDING THE MISSISSIPPI ATHLETIC
5 COMMISSION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 75-75-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 brought forward as follows:

10 75-75-103. There is hereby created the Mississippi Athletic
11 Commission, hereinafter referred to as the commission. The
12 commission shall consist of three (3) members, each of whom shall
13 be a qualified voter and at least thirty (30) years of age. The
14 membership of the commission shall consist of a chairman of the
15 commission and two (2) associate commissioners, appointed by the
16 Governor. The chairman, appointed for a term of six (6) years,
17 and one (1) associate commissioner for four (4) years and one (1)
18 associate commissioner for two (2) years, and hereafter their
19 respective successors shall be appointed for a term of six (6)
20 years. They shall take the same oath of office and may be



21 impeached and shall be commissioned as other state officers. Any
22 commissioner who does not attend two (2) consecutive meetings of
23 the commission shall be subject to removal by the Governor. The
24 chairman shall notify the Governor in writing when any member has
25 failed to attend two (2) consecutive meetings.

26 **SECTION 2.** Section 75-75-105, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
27 brought forward as follows:

28 75-75-105. The commission shall have a seal and shall have
29 and is hereby vested with the sole direction, management, control
30 and jurisdiction over all boxing, sparring and wrestling matches
31 or exhibitions to be conducted, held or given within the State of
32 Mississippi. The commission has full power and authority and it
33 shall be its duty: (a) to make and publish rules and regulations
34 governing the conduct of boxing, sparring and wrestling matches
35 and exhibitions, the time and place thereof, and the prices
36 charged for admission thereto; (b) to accept application for and,
37 in its discretion, order a license or permit issued to promoters
38 and participants of these events, and to revoke the license or
39 permit; (c) to collect through the recorder of permits and
40 licenses a fee of six percent (6%) of the gross receipts of every
41 boxing, sparring or wrestling match or exhibition, and a
42 reasonable fee not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for
43 each annual license or permit issued to a boxer, wrestler,
44 referee, judge, matchmaker, promoter, manager, trainer, second,
45 director, or timekeeper; and (d) to revoke any license or permit



when, in its judgment, the public welfare requires it. The commission is prohibited from issuing regulations which may be construed as granting a franchised or exclusive territory, and from the issuing of any type of monopolistic license or permit.

SECTION 3. Section 75-75-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

75-75-107. Each member of the commission shall receive per diem in accordance with Section 25-3-69 and shall be paid traveling expenses while engaged in the performance of his official duties in accordance with Section 25-3-41, including traveling expenses for attending the National Boxing Association Convention. The commissioners may pay all such national affiliation dues as may be existing against the Athletic Commission, as in their discretion, may be necessary, out of the funds collected by the recorder of permits and licenses, and on order and approval of the commission. The chairman of the commission shall be ex officio the recorder of permits and licenses and for his service as such shall receive an annual salary equal to Thirty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$32,500.00). The chairman shall not be deemed a state employee for purposes of qualifying for state-funded retirement, group insurance, or other fringe benefits.

SECTION 4. Section 75-75-109, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:



70 75-75-109. The commission may appoint and remove at
71 pleasure, such number of inspectors of athletics as in its
72 judgment is necessary to aid in the proper discharge of its
73 duties. Compensation may be paid an inspector as the commission
74 may determine, but he shall be paid, when ordered to attend a
75 match or exhibition, his actual traveling expenses in the same way
76 and manner as expenses of members of the commission are paid. It
77 shall be the duty of the commission, either by one of its members
78 or by a duly appointed inspector, to attend every boxing,
79 wrestling or sparring match or exhibition held in the State of
80 Mississippi. The commission may appoint and remove at pleasure, a
81 secretary to the commission, who shall perform such duties as the
82 commission may prescribe, and who shall keep a full, complete and
83 up-to-date record of all proceedings of said commission, including
84 all licenses and all sums collected, and make a report thereof to
85 the State Auditor annually, on or before the fifteenth day of
86 January in each year.

87 **SECTION 5.** Section 75-75-111, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
88 brought forward as follows:

89 75-75-111. The commission shall maintain a general office
90 for the transaction of its business at a place to be designated by
91 the chairman. It may fix the salary of its secretary, subject to
92 the approval of the State Personnel Board, which salary shall be
93 paid by the recorder of permits and licenses on order and approval
94 of the commission, out of any funds on hand, for which the



recorder of permits and licenses is accountable to the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 6. Section 75-75-113, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

75-75-113. The recorder of permits and licenses shall give a bond in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) with a surety company authorized to do business in Mississippi, payable to the State of Mississippi, conditioned that he will faithfully account for and pay over to the State Treasurer all moneys collected by him, less any disbursements or deductions authorized by law, and it shall be his duty to make a report of and pay into the State Treasury on or before the fifteenth day of January and July, in each year, all moneys received after first paying all salaries, office rent, accounts and other expenditures authorized by law and approved by the commission.

SECTION 7. Section 75-75-114, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

75-75-114. All funds received by the Mississippi Athletic Commission, as established by Sections 75-75-103 et seq., from any source authorized by statute shall be paid to the State Treasurer, who shall issue receipts therefor and who shall deposit such funds in the State Treasury in a special fund to the credit of said commission. All such funds shall be expended only pursuant to appropriation approved by the Legislature and as provided by law.



119 **SECTION 8.** Section 75-75-115, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
120 brought forward as follows:

121 75-75-115. All contracts relating to the holding or staging
122 of any boxing, wrestling, or sparring match or exhibition in
123 Mississippi, or relating to any participation therein, shall
124 contain a provision to the effect that all rules passed or adopted
125 by the commission, either before or after the execution of the
126 contract, shall be considered as a part of the contract, the same
127 as if said rules were fully set out in the body of the instrument.

128 **SECTION 9.** Section 75-75-117, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
129 brought forward as follows:

130 75-75-117. Any person who shall voluntarily engage in a
131 pugilistic encounter, wrestling match or exhibition, for money or
132 any other things of value, or for which an admission fee is
133 charged, either directly or indirectly, or any person who shall be
134 concerned directly or indirectly in the promotion of any boxing,
135 wrestling, or sparring match or exhibition, or any person who acts
136 or attempts to act as referee, judge, matchmaker, promoter,
137 manager, trainer, director, second or timekeeper in connection
138 with any boxing, wrestling or sparring match or exhibition in this
139 state without first having obtained a license or permit from the
140 commission, on conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment in
141 the Penitentiary not less than one (1) year; or by fine not less
142 than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Two Thousand
143 Dollars (\$2,000.00); or by imprisonment in the county jail not



less than thirty (30) days nor more than six (6) months; or by both such fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 10. Section 75-75-119, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

75-75-119. Any person who shall willfully violate any rule or regulation passed or adopted by the Mississippi Athletic Commission shall be fined by the commission as follows:

(a) For boxer or wrestler, up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or up to twenty-five percent (25%) of contracted purse;

(b) For trainer, second or manager, up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or up to ten percent (10%) of contracted amount of the represented fighter;

(c) For promoter or director, up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or up to twenty-five percent (25%) of contracted amount of the highest two (2) combined bout purses during an event; and

(d) Referee, judge, timekeeper or matchmaker, up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or twenty-five percent (25%) of the contracted pay for that event.

SECTION 11. Section 75-75-121, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

75-75-121. All licenses and permits issued by the commission shall be on forms prescribed by the commission, which shall be furnished to the commission on its order at the expense of the state. All stamps, books and other incidentals used by the



commission shall be paid for on order of the commission, by the recorder of permits and licenses, out of funds on hand, for which he is accountable to the State Treasurer.

SECTION 12. Section 75-75-123, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

75-75-123. Boxing, sparring and wrestling matches in colleges, universities or high schools shall be exempted from the jurisdiction of the commission herein created and shall be permitted and supervised by the governing body of such high school, college or university.

SECTION 13. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

