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**By: Delegate Pitkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 1996

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Boxers and Kick Boxers - Blood Tests**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring boxers and kick boxers to submit to a blood test for human  
4 immunodeficiency virus and Hepatitis B at certain times; prohibiting a boxer or kick  
5 boxer who has tested positive for human immunodeficiency virus or Hepatitis B to  
6 enter a ring; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to  
7 requiring certain blood tests for boxers and kick boxers.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Business Regulation  
10 Section 4-304 and 4-315  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1992 Volume and 1995 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Business Regulation**

16 4-304.

17 (a) A licensee shall be examined by a licensed physician who is chosen by the  
18 Commission and who specializes in neurology or neurosurgery prior to the licensee's first  
19 appearance as a contestant in a kick boxing or boxing contest following the issuance or  
20 renewal of a license.

21 (b) A LICENSEE SHALL SUBMIT TO A BLOOD TEST FOR HUMAN  
22 IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND HEPATITIS B BY A LICENSED LABORATORY  
23 CHOSEN BY THE COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE LICENSEE'S FIRST APPEARANCE AS A  
24 CONTESTANT IN A KICK BOXING OR BOXING CONTEST FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE  
25 OR RENEWAL OF A LICENSE AND EVERY 3 MONTHS AFTER THE ISSUANCE OR  
26 RENEWAL OF A LICENSE.

27 (C) The Commission shall pay the cost of the neurological examination AND  
28 BLOOD TESTS required under this section from license fees collected under this subtitle.

29 4-315.

30 (a) A boxer or kick boxer shall be allowed to enter the ring only [if ] IF:

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1 (1) a physician approved by the Commission declares the boxer or kick  
2 boxer to be physically fit; AND

3 (2) THE BOXER OR KICK BOXER HAS NOT TESTED POSITIVE FOR  
4 HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS OR HEPATITIS B ON THE MOST RECENT BLOOD  
5 TEST REQUIRED BY § 4-304 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

6 (b) Each boxer or kick boxer in a contest shall submit to a chemical test of the  
7 urine of the boxer or kick boxer to detect the presence of a controlled dangerous  
8 substance defined under Article 27, § 277 of the Code or other substance that the  
9 Commission prohibits by regulation.

10 (c) Each boxer or kick boxer in a contest shall wear gloves that weigh at least 5  
11 ounces.

12 (d) The Commission shall set the length in rounds of each boxing and kick boxing  
13 contest.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
15 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, has  
16 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
17 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
18 enacted.