
By: **Delegates Redmer and Klausmeier**
Introduced and read first time: February 25, 1999
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Martial Art Competitions - Safety Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain participants in a martial art competition from
4 using maneuvers that involve full head contact; requiring a martial art
5 competition organizer to provide a ringside physician at certain matches;
6 requiring a martial art competition organizer to provide notice of certain safety
7 requirements to competition participants; providing for criminal penalties for
8 violating certain safety requirements; defining certain terms; and generally
9 relating to safety requirements and procedures for martial art competitions.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Business Regulation
12 Section 4-101(e), (f), and (g); and 4-501 through 4-504, inclusive, to be under
13 the new subtitle "Subtitle 5. Martial Art Competitions"
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1998 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article - Business Regulation**

19 4-101.

20 (E) "FULL HEAD CONTACT" MEANS ANY FORM OF HEAD CONTACT THAT
21 CAUSES ABRASION, INJURY, OR THE FLOW OF BLOOD.

22 (F) "LIGHT HEAD CONTACT" MEANS ANY HEAD CONTACT THAT CAUSES
23 INCIDENTAL HEAD MOVEMENT WITH NO INJURY, ABRASION, OR FLOW OF BLOOD.

24 (G) (1) "MARTIAL ART" MEANS ANY FORM OF KARATE, KUNG FU, TAE KWON
25 DO, OR ANY OTHER FORM OF UNARMED SELF-DEFENSE.

26 (2) "MARTIAL ART" DOES NOT INCLUDE BOXING, KICK BOXING, OR
27 WRESTLING.

1 SUBTITLE 5. MARTIAL ART COMPETITIONS.

2 4-501.

3 (A) PARTICIPANTS IN A MARTIAL ART COMPETITION THAT INVOLVES
4 PHYSICAL CONTACT BETWEEN COMPETITORS AND WHO ARE RANKED AT LESS THAN
5 BLACK BELT LEVEL OR LESS THAN AN EQUIVALENT LEVEL IF THE STYLE OF
6 MARTIAL ART INVOLVED IN THE COMPETITION DOES NOT HAVE A BLACK BELT
7 LEVEL, MAY NOT USE MANEUVERS THAT INVOLVE FULL HEAD CONTACT.

8 (B) PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE RESTRICTED FROM USING MANEUVERS THAT
9 INVOLVE FULL HEAD CONTACT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY USE
10 MANEUVERS WHICH INVOLVE CONTROLLED LIGHT HEAD CONTACT.

11 (C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO ACCIDENTAL OR INCIDENTAL
12 CONTACT TO THE HEAD.

13 4-502.

14 IN ANY MARTIAL ART COMPETITION THAT IS EXPECTED TO INVOLVE PHYSICAL
15 CONTACT BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS, THE COMPETITION'S ORGANIZER SHALL
16 PROVIDE A RINGSIDE PHYSICIAN AT EACH MATCH.

17 4-503.

18 A MARTIAL ART COMPETITION'S ORGANIZER SHALL PROVIDE A WRITTEN
19 DISCLOSURE OF THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER §§ 4-501 AND 4-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE
20 TO COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS AS PART OF AN APPLICATION FORM.

21 4-504.

22 A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBTITLE IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND,
23 ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000 OR IMPRISONMENT
24 NOT TO EXCEED 6 MONTHS OR BOTH.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 1999.