

February 26, 1969

SENATE FILE 326

Passed on File

Conservation & Recreation 2-28-69

By REICHARDT

*Revised " Pass as amended 4-11  
1-13-70 Res " 3-5*

Passed Senate, Date.....4-3-70..... Passed House, Date .....4-15-70.....

Vote: Ayes .....37 Nays .....12..... Vote: Ayes .....24 Nays .....32.....

Approved .....

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act to legalize professional boxing and wrestling.

2 *Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

3 Section 1. As used in this Act, "boxing or wrestling  
4 match" means a boxing, wrestling, or sparring contest or  
5 exhibition open to the public for which the principals or  
6 contestants are paid for their participation.

7 Sec. 2. There is hereby created a state commissioner of  
8 athletics to be appointed by the secretary of state. The  
9 commissioner shall be appointed for a term of three years,  
10 and shall serve until his successor is appointed and quali-  
11 fied. The commissioner may be removed by the secretary of  
12 state for good cause. The commissioner shall receive such  
13 compensation and expenses as may be approved by the  
14 secretary of state.

15 Sec. 3. The commissioner shall appoint a secretary, who  
16 shall keep a full and true record of all proceedings, and who  
17 shall perform such other duties as the commissioner may prescribe.  
18 Under the direction of the commissioner the secretary shall  
19 issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses before the  
20 commissioner and may administer oaths in all matters pertaining  
21 to the duties of the commissioner. The traveling and other  
22 necessary expenses, including the salary of the secretary, shall  
23 be determined by the commissioner.

24 Sec. 4. No boxing or wrestling match shall be held within  
25 this state except as provided in this Act. The commissioner

1 may issue, suspend or revoke a license to conduct boxing and  
2 wrestling matches to any person. Nothing in this Act shall  
3 be construed to prohibit amateur boxing or wrestling exhibitions.  
4 Every license shall be subject to such rules and regulations  
5 as the commissioner may prescribe.

6 Sec. 5. Every application for a license to conduct a  
7 boxing or wrestling match shall be in writing and shall be  
8 verified. It shall contain a recital of such facts as will  
9 show the applicant entitled to receive a license, and in  
10 addition such other facts as the commissioner may by rules  
11 require.

12 Sec. 6. A boxing match shall be not more than fifteen  
13 rounds in length; and the contestants shall wear gloves  
14 weighing at least six ounces during such contests. No person  
15 may take part in a boxing match unless they have first passed  
16 a rigorous physical examination to determine their fitness  
17 to engage in any such match. Said examination shall be con-  
18 ducted by a regular practicing physician designated by the  
19 commissioner.

20 Sec. 7. Every person conducting a boxing or wrestling  
21 match in this state shall, within twenty-four hours after  
22 such match, furnish to the commissioner a written report,  
23 duly verified, showing the number of tickets sold for such  
24 boxing or wrestling match, and the amount of gross proceeds  
25 thereof, and such other matters as the commissioner may  
26 prescribe; and shall also within the said time pay to the  
27 state treasurer a tax of five percent of its total gross  
28 receipts, after deducting any federal admission tax, from  
29 the sale of tickets of admission to such boxing or wrestling  
30 match.

31 Sec. 8. Before any license shall be granted to any person  
32 to conduct any boxing or wrestling match, such applicant there-  
33 for shall execute and file with the state treasurer a bond in  
34 the sum of five thousand dollars, payable to the state of Iowa,  
35 to be approved as to form by the attorney general, and as to

1 sufficiency of the sureties thereon, by the commissioner, which  
2 bond shall be conditioned upon the payment of the tax and  
3 penalties imposed by this Act. Upon the filing and approval  
4 of such bond, the commissioner may issue to such applicant a  
5 license as herein provided.

6 Sec. 9. If any person fails to make a report of any match  
7 within the time prescribed by this Act, or whenever such re-  
8 port is unsatisfactory to the commissioner, the commissioner  
9 may examine or cause to be examined the books and records  
10 of such person, and subpoena and examine under oath witnesses,  
11 for the purpose of determining the total amount of the gross  
12 receipts for any match and the amount of tax due pursuant to  
13 the provisions of this Act. The commissioner may, as the  
14 result of such examination, fix and determine the tax, and  
15 may also assess the licensee the reasonable cost of conducting  
16 the examination. If any person defaults in the payment of any  
17 tax due or the costs incurred in making such examination,  
18 such person shall forfeit to the state of Iowa the sum of  
19 five thousand dollars, which may be recovered by the attorney  
20 general from the sureties of the bond required by section  
21 eight (8) of this Act.

22 Sec. 10. Sections seven hundred twenty-seven point two  
23 (727.2), seven hundred twenty-seven point three (727.3),  
24 seven hundred twenty-seven point four (727.4), and seven  
25 hundred twenty-seven point five (727.5), Code 1966, are  
26 hereby repealed.

#### EXPLANATION OF SENATE FILE 326

This bill will legalize professional boxing and wrestling under the supervision of a commissioner appointed by the secretary of state. The bill also imposes a tax on such athletic contests which will pay for the necessary supervision.

- 1 Amend Senate File 326 as follows:
- 2 1. By striking from page one (1), line eight (8), the words  
3 "secretary of state" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "governor".
- 4 2. By striking from page one (1), line nine (9), the words "be  
5 appointed for a term of three years" and inserting in lieu thereof the  
6 words "serve at the pleasure of the governor".
- 7 3. By striking from page one (1), lines eleven (11) and twelve (12),  
8 the words "The commissioner may be removed by the secretary of state  
9 for good cause."
- 10 4. By striking from page one (1), line fourteen (14), the words  
11 "secretary of state" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "governor".
- 12 5. By striking from page two (2), line twenty-seven (27), the  
13 words "state treasurer" and inserting in lieu thereof the words  
14 "treasurer  
15 of state".
- 16 6 By striking from page two (2), line thirty-three (33), the words  
17 "state treasurer" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "treasurer of  
18 state".

Filed - *withdrawn 4/3*  
April 11, 1969

By COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION  
AND RECREATION

- 1 Amend Senate File 326 as follows:
- 2 1. Page 1, line 8, by striking the following: "to  
3 be appointed by the governor".
- 4 2. Page 1, line 8, by inserting before the word  
5 "The" the following: "The state commissioner of athletics  
6 shall be the secretary of agriculture."

Offered from the floor and ruled out of order  
April 15, 1970

MILLEN of Jefferson-Van Buren