

Governor's Office of Management and Budget

Alexis Sturm

Director



Regulatory Sunset Act Study on

The Boxing and Full Contact Martial Arts Act May 8, 2026

To the Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois

Governor Pritzker:

As required by Section 5 of the Regulatory Sunset Act (5 ILCS 80/1 et seq.), GOMB facilitated a study with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's (IDFPR), the agency responsible for oversight of the Boxing and Full Contact Martial Arts Act (225 ILCS 105) (the Act), which is scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2027. This study provides justification for the recommendation to continue this Act.

GOMB's examination of this Act was conducted considering the factors set out in Sections 6 and 7 of the Regulatory Sunset Act. The following report outlines the work of GOMB's study and details the criteria and data utilized to arrive at the above recommendation.

Respectfully,

Alexis Sturm
Director
Governor's Office of Management and Budget

GOMB Regulatory Sunset Act Report: Boxing and Full Contact Martial Arts Act

The State of Illinois, acting through the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR or the Department), licenses the professions of boxing, mixed martial arts, kickboxing, and Muay Thai professionals and amateurs pursuant to the Act. Full contact martial arts disciplines and boxing have long been considered some of the world's most dangerous sports to participate in. Professional and amateur athletes participate globally under recognized rules which protect their health, safety and welfare.

1. License Count and Fee Structure (5 ILCS 80/6(1) and (3))

As of July 2025, IDFPR states that there are 410 active licenses under this Act in Illinois. See the following table for the number of licenses issued by IDFPR under this Act in the fiscal years indicated:

License Type	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Contestant	125	47	111	125	125
Referees	13	8	11	12	12
Judge	40	25	28	21	21
Timekeeper	4	4	5	5	5
Professional Promoter	10	7	9	8	3
Amateur Promoter	5	4	4	2	2
Manager	5	1	2	2	2
Matchmaker	2	1	1	0	0
Second	320	123	199	203	203
Contestant	125	47	111	125	125

Licensure for this Act has the following fee structure:

License	Fee Amount	Renewal
Contestant	\$100	\$100
Referee	\$300	\$300
Judge	\$100	\$100
Timekeeper	\$150	\$150
Professional Promoter	\$1000	\$1000
Amateur Promoter	\$300	\$300
Manager	\$200	\$200
Matchmaker	\$250	\$250
Second	\$50	\$50

Online payment options for each license will become available throughout 2026.

2. Obtaining Certification in Illinois (5 ILCS 80/6(11))

All applicants shall apply to the Department for licensure on prescribed forms and submit addendums per license type with the fee. There are no additional testing requirements for these licensees. Licensure standards are established per statute and rule, Ill. Admin. Code tit. 68, § 1370 (Boxing and Full-Contact Martial Arts Act).

3. Equity Concerns (5 ILCS 80/6(10), (12) and (13))

IDFPR states that equity issues may have an impact on individuals seeking licensure in the State of Illinois. These issues include financial challenges such as the cost to obtain licensure and failure to complete licensure.

Persons who speak English as a second language may also have difficulty with the licensure process. IDFPR asserts that it has done its best to minimize any barriers to licensure by requiring universally accepted qualification requirements and imposing fair standards of professionalism.

4. Agency recommendations to change the statute (5 ILCS 80/6(4) and (9))

IDFPR does not have amendatory recommendations for this Act. The Department is continuously monitoring the impact the current statutory language has on practitioners, while closely observing what changes can be made to better benefit the public.

5. Agency efforts to comply with enabling laws (5 ILCS 80/6(3), (4) and (5))

At the time of this study, GOMB is not aware of any compliance issues by IDFPR related to the provisions of the Act.

6. Recent bills introduced by the General Assembly (5 ILCS 80/6(9))

According to IDFPR, there have been no statutory changes recently introduced by the General Assembly.

7. Stakeholder Feedback and Protocols for Licensure (5 ILCS 80/6(5), (6), (7), (8), (10) and 5 ILCS 80/7)

The Athletic Board meets with the Department for official board business up to three times per year. Individual board members may provide additional insights and work with the Department in the field.

The Department regularly meets with the industry and fields inquiries from constituents and licensees through the course of normal business. IDFPR states it is available to the public during field operations and events providing direct access for feedback, questions and concerns.

The boxing and full contact martial arts industries remain stable with few problems arising infrequently. When an industry problem does occur, the Department is able to identify and address the concerns internally, accessing the advice of the Athletic Board and industry experts to address issue(s).

To date, IDFPR has not solicited public comment about this unit's rules through a media campaign. Because staff are frequently present with the industry during field operations, the Department can openly and quickly address concerns or comments.

IDFPR states that it has not received comments from professional organizations or other interested parties regarding the impact of rules or administrative decisions related to enforcement of licensure under this Act. ~~of dental professionals~~. Further, IDFPR is not aware of any public feedback regarding licensure of athletic trainers.

8. Public Outreach (5 ILCS 80/6(5), (6), (7) and (8) and 5 ILCS 80/7)

IDFPR provides multiple avenues for members of the public to contact the Department with comments or concerns about the programs it oversees or the Department's rules governing its programs. IDFPR conducts public outreach efforts through social media and other external-facing means.

9. Industry Standards (5 ILCS 80/6(11) and (12))

IDFPR states that the Illinois personal qualifications required for this profession are in line with industry standards.

Nationally, almost all states have an athletic commission/unit dedicated to the regulation of boxing and full contact martial arts industries. Illinois is comparable to all other midwestern states in providing the necessary regulatory framework to regulate boxing and full contact martial arts disciplines.

The Boxing and Full Contact Martial Arts Act provides the highest standards of industry practice by providing every necessary framework for permitting, licensing, and medical standards. The Department's regulation is consistent with industry practices and provides the appropriate level of regulation for this industry.

10. Public Complaint Resolution (5 ILCS 80/6(3), (7), (8) and (10) and 5 ILCS 80/7)

IDFPR has received five complaints from the public regarding this Act over the past five fiscal years. Investigators review complaints and send complaints to the Department's Prosecutions unit. If the complaint progresses, a Director's Order will be entered by the Director of Professional Regulation. The average time for resolution of a complaint is one month. The table below outlines the number of complaints received by the Department in the last five years.

Complaints	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
The Boxing and Full Contact Martial Arts Act	1	1	1	1	1

11. Disciplinary Action (5 ILCS 80/6(14))

IDFPR's authority to enforce the Act ensures that allegations of professional incompetence, gross negligence, malpractice, and unprofessional conduct are investigated and that substantiated allegations are prosecuted by the IDFPR for appropriate discipline.

Disciplinary actions will typically involve post-bout drug testing violations and unlicensed practice.

12. Conclusion

The Act governs the licensure of boxing and full contact martial arts disciplines in the State of Illinois. The absence of licensing criteria for the boxing and full contact martial arts disciplines would pose a significant and direct harm to the health, safety, and welfare of the public and specifically the State's healthcare system.

Regulating boxing and full contact martial arts disciplines are crucial for protecting the athlete's health and safety, preventing corruption, ensuring fair competition, and maintaining the integrity of the sports.

Based on the factors in 5 ILCS 80/6 and the additional criteria in 5 ILCS 80/7, GOMB finds that the Act should be recommended for continuation. The record should expressly state that the public protection benefits of regulation outweigh the regulatory costs and that no less restrictive alternative would adequately address the significant and discernible harms identified in this report.

The Act should be continued to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public, without burdening licensees or commerce.