

"AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE LAW RELATING TO THE ARKANSAS ATHLETIC COMMISSION TO PROVIDE THAT ALL QUALIFIED ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS DESIRING TO BE LICENSED TO SPONSOR ATHLETIC EVENTS REGULATED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE LICENSED BY THE COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE THAT IF NO QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION OR CLUB DESIRES TO BE LICENSED TO CONDUCT SUCH ATHLETIC EVENTS IN ANY CITY, TOWN OR AREA OF THE STATE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO BE LICENSED TO SPONSOR SUCH EVENTS IN THE CITY, TOWN OR AREA; TO PROVIDE THAT ALL FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS SPONSOR OF SUCH EVENTS SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL ON THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. It is the purpose and intent of this Act to assure that each and every qualified organization and civic club in the State desiring to be licensed to sponsor athletic events, matches and exhibitions regulated by the Arkansas Athletic Commission shall be licensed by the Commission to do so and the Commission shall have no authority to limit or restrict the number of licensed sponsors. It is further the intent hereof to provide that the Secretary of State shall, upon application therefor, be licensed as a sponsor of such athletic events, matches and exhibitions in any city, town or area of the State wherein no qualified organization or club has applied for a license as a sponsor, and that the funds received by the Secretary of State as a sponsor of such events shall be used for the erection and maintenance of a memorial to Arkansas law enforcement officers or such other memorial as the General Assembly may hereafter provide.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of Act 131 of 1927, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 84-2902, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. Matches and exhibitions involving wrestling, boxing, sparring, karate, judo and/or any combinations thereof which are conducted for purses and/or where an admission fee is charged are hereby authorized. Provided, all such matches and exhibitions shall be sponsored by and held under the auspices of a patriotic organization chartered by authority of a special act of the Congress of the United States, a chartered civic club, or the Secretary of State as hereinafter provided, and such matches or exhibitions shall be conducted only in accordance with the provisions of this Act and acts amendatory or supplemental hereto and in accordance with rules and regulations of the State Athletic Commission."

SECTION 3. Section 4 of Act 131 of 1927, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 84-2905, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. The Commission shall permit any patriotic organization chartered by a special act of the Congress of the United States or any duly chartered civic club or part of any such organization to hold matches and exhibitions, under the rules and regulations prescribed by said Commission and the Commission shall have no authority to limit the number of such organizations which may sponsor athletic matches and exhibitions in any area of the State, nor to limit or restrict the number of wrestling organizations or federations promoting or organizing wrestling matches or exhibitions in the

State. If there is no qualified patriotic organization or civic club which wishes to sponsor such matches and exhibitions in any city or town or any particular area of the State the Secretary of State may sponsor such activities in such city, town or area. Such permission shall be given by granting a license to any such unit or to the Secretary of State for a fee of five percent (5%) of the total gross receipts received from admission charges for each main or principal exhibition held under authority of this Act but in no event to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per exhibition. Such fees shall be paid by the said local unit or the Secretary of State to the Secretary of the State Athletic Commission for each main or principal exhibition held under authority of this Act, provided that no license shall be issued to any unit or part of any organization composed of persons under the age of twenty-one (21) years."

SECTION 4. Section 1 of Act 463 of 1965, as amended, the same being Arkansas Statutes 84-2911, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. If no local patriotic organization or duly chartered civic club has obtained or desires to obtain a license to conduct wrestling, boxing, sparring, karate or judo matches as authorized by law, in any city, town or area of the State, the Secretary of State shall be entitled to obtain a license to promote and conduct wrestling, boxing, sparring, karate, judo or combination matches and exhibitions, for purses, and to charge admission fees therefor in such city, town or area of the State subject to the rules and regulations of the State Athletic Commission, and in compliance with laws relating thereto. Provided, when the Secretary of State sponsors any such events, all funds received by him as sponsor shall be deposited in the State Treasury and credited to general revenues.

SECTION 5. When any athletic event, match or exhibition is held under the sponsorship of the Secretary of State, all funds received by the Secretary of State therefrom shall be deposited in the State Treasury and credited to the State Capitol Grounds Memorial Fund which is hereby established on the books of the State Treasurer, State Auditor and the Chief Fiscal Officer, and shall be used exclusively for the erection on the State Capitol grounds of a memorial to Arkansas law enforcement officers and/or such other memorial as may hereafter be prescribed by the General Assembly.

SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

APPROVED: 4/6/87

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