

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, May 25, 1931.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

Under the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning herewith Senate Bill 509, entitled "An Act relative to Licensed Boxing or Sparring Matches or Exhibitions," with the recommendation that it be amended by striking out section 2 of said act.

It is my opinion that the rules of a contest of skill should be formulated by those interested in the conduct of the sport rather than the Legislature. Without in any way attempting to qualify as an expert but simply expressing a common sense opinion, it seems to me that to permit one of the contestants to strike three foul blows, under the provisions of section 2 of this act, may lead to most unfavorable results and permit a losing contestant to rehabilitate his chances of an ultimate decision through the use of a deliberate foul.

It is my personal theory that too many rules spoil any game and that, of necessity, the conduct of boxing must be largely left to the discretion of the commission.

JOSEPH B. ELY.





