

The Connecticut General Assembly



For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2017

LAWMAKERS HAIL HOUSE PASSAGE OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS BILL

State Representatives Christopher Rosario (Bridgeport D-128), **Ezequiel Santiago** (Bridgeport D-130) and **Angel Arce** (Hartford D-4) hailed House passage of a bill they championed to allow sanctioned mixed martial arts events in the state.

House Bill [#6266](#) would establish regulations to allow Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) sessions in the state of Connecticut lifting burdens on promoters and putting protections in place for competitors.

"I would like to thank my colleagues in the House of Representatives for recognizing that passage of this legislation makes practical sense at a time when we are looking to generate much needed revenue across the state," **Rep. Rosario** said. "I am pleased we have loosened outdated state regulations which prevented us from hosting MMA sports events causing us to miss millions of dollars on untapped revenue."

"We have been pushing for this legislation for some time and I am very pleased to see it pass the House," **Rep. Santiago** said. "There are many venues throughout the state, including Bridgeport, that would benefit from the entertainment, economic activity and boost to the economy these types of events bring. I look forward to see it become law."

The measure promotes professional boxing and MMA matches in the state by exempting such events from the admissions tax and eliminating a tax paid by promoters. It also requires promoters to provide insurance to competitors.

"This legislation is long overdue," said **Rep. Arce**. "Hartford and other cities have been losing out to states where MMA is welcomed. I hope this bill becomes law and begins to generate much-needed revenue for Hartford, the XL Center and region."

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration. The regular session ends June 7.

###