

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Shannon Sivell, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies procedure for impounding fighting bird during investigation for criminal mistreatment. Authorizes officer to apply for search warrant and impound animals in cases involving animal fighting.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: HB 2529A includes the crimes of animal fighting, dog fighting and cockfighting in the list of animal mistreatment crimes that may result in impoundment and forfeiture of the animals. It also adds these crimes to the list of circumstances where peace officers may provide emergency food, water and medical care to an animal for its own protection. The measure may provide a cost savings in cases involving seizures of large numbers of fighting birds or fighting dogs because it allows for the animals to be impounded on the premises where they are found. Removing and housing hundreds of fighting birds or fighting dogs during an investigation can be an overwhelming and dangerous task and holding them in the specialized housing found at the scene is a safe and cost effective solution.