

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference

Vote: 10 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Stiegler, Whisnant, Barker

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Shannon Sivell, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases the penalties for the crime of involvement in animal fighting from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class C felony. Adds participating in cockfighting to the list of crimes subject to criminal forfeiture. Increases the penalty for participating in cockfighting from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class C felony.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: It is currently against the law if a person knowingly attends a cockfight or pays admission at any location to view or bet on a cockfight, or sells equipment with the intent that the equipment be used in training or handling a fighting bird. SB 280 would increase the penalty for participating in a cockfight from a Class A misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment and a \$6,250 fine, to a Class C felony with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment and a \$125,000 fine.

In addition, SB 280 increases the penalty for the crime of involvement in animal fighting from a Class A misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment and \$6,250 fine, to a Class C felony with a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$125,000 fine.