

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Kahl  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Courtney

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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Action: Do Pass

Vote: 15 – 6 – 1

House

Yeas: Buckley, C. Edwards, D. Edwards, Galizio, Jenson, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields

Nays: Garrard, Gilman, Richardson

Exc: G. Smith

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Johnson, Monroe, Verger, Walker, Whitsett

Nays: Girod, Nelson, Winters

Exc:

Prepared By: Tim Walker, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 18, 2009

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**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, and increases the penalty for participating in cockfighting from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class C felony.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- How big of a problem this crime is
- Reasons for a minimal fiscal impact

**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.