

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass  
**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1  
**Yeas:** Bonamici, Boquist, Whitsett, Prozanski  
**Nays:** 0  
**Exc.:** Dingfelder  
**Prepared By:** Anna Braun, Counsel  
**Meeting Dates:** 2/12, 3/3

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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. Increases the penalty for participating in cockfighting from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class C felony.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Similarity to dog fighting bill that was approved last session
- Interconnectedness of cockfighting with drug and gun crimes

**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.