

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

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

---

**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Bonamici, Boquist, Whitsett, Prozanski

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Dingfelder

**Prepared By:** Anna Braun, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 2/12, 3/26

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows a court to remove all domestic animals from the residence of person who has been convicted of unlawfully possessing domestic animals. Adds sexual assault and animal fighting offenses to offenses that bar possession of a domestic animal for five years after conviction. Adds dogfighting and cockfighting to the offenses that bar possession of a domestic animal for 15 years after conviction. Designates unlawful possession a Class C misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$1,250 and 30 days in jail.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Affects only domestic animals

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Adds sexual assault and animal fighting offenses to offenses that bar possession of a domestic animal for five years after conviction. Adds dogfighting and cockfighting to the offenses that bar possession of a domestic animal for 15 years after conviction. Makes unlawful possession a Class C misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$1,250 and 30 days in jail.

**BACKGROUND:** In addition to other penalties, a person convicted of animal abuse, neglect or abandonment may not possess a domestic animal for up to five years. Convictions for aggravated animal abuse or first degree animal abuse bar a person from possessing an animal for 15 years. However, other domestic animals may be present in the household. Senate Bill 299A authorizes a judge to order removal of those animals. In addition, Senate Bill 299A changes the penalty for unlawful possession of a domestic animal from an unclassified misdemeanor to a Class C misdemeanor, adds sexual assault and animal fighting to offenses that bar possession of a domestic animal for five years, and adds dogfighting and cockfighting to those offenses barring possession of a domestic animal for 15 years.