

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011

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SENATE BILL 679

Short Title: Strengthen Prohibition on Cockfighting.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Newton.

Referred to: Judiciary II.

April 20, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE LAW PROHIBITING COCKFIGHTING AND  
3 RELATED ACTIVITIES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 14-362 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 14-362. Cockfighting.**

7 (a) A person who instigates, promotes, conducts, is employed at, allows property under  
8 his ownership or control to be used for, participates as a spectator at, or profits from an  
9 exhibition featuring the fighting of a ~~cock-rooster, gamecock, or other fighting bird~~ is guilty of  
10 a Class I felony. A lease of property that is used or is intended to be used for an exhibition  
11 featuring the fighting of a ~~cock-rooster, gamecock, or other fighting bird~~ is void, and a lessor  
12 who knows this use is made or is intended to be made of ~~his~~ the lessor's property is under a  
13 duty to evict the lessee immediately.

14 (b) A person who owns, breeds, possesses, sells, or trains a rooster, gamecock, or other  
15 fighting bird with the intent that the bird be used in an exhibition featuring the baiting of that  
16 bird or the fighting of that bird with another bird or with another animal is guilty of a Class I  
17 felony.

18 (c) A person who manufactures, possesses, promotes, buys, sells, or transports any of  
19 the implements commonly known as gaffs or slashers, or any other sharp implement designed  
20 to be attached in place of the natural spur of a rooster, gamecock, or other fighting bird, or any  
21 device intended to enhance an animal's fighting ability or for use in an exhibition of animal  
22 fighting is guilty of a Class I felony.

23 (d) For purposes of this section:

24 (1) "Cockfight" means a fight between two or more birds that is arranged by a  
25 person and that has the purpose or probable result of one bird inflicting  
26 injury to another bird.

27 (2) "Fighting bird" means a bird, battlecock, cock, or rooster that is intentionally  
28 bred or trained for use in, or that actually is used in, a cockfight.

29 (3) "Gaff" means an artificial steel spur, designed for attachment to the leg of a  
30 fighting bird in replacement of the bird's natural spurs, consisting of a  
31 needle-like spike and of various lengths, also referred to as a bayonette,  
32 jagger, or skeleton.

33 (4) "Slasher" means a steel weapon resembling a curved knife blade designed  
34 for attachment to the foot of a fighting bird."

35 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2011, and applies to  
36 offenses committed on or after that date.

