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**Judiciary Committee**

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**SB 6568**

**Title:** An act relating to animal fighting.

**Brief Description:** Modifying animal fighting provisions.

**Sponsors:** Senators Regala, Carrell and Oke.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Amends the crime of animal fighting to include being a spectator at an animal fight and to add as an element of the crime that certain prescribed conduct be done knowingly or intentionally.

**Hearing Date:** 2/22/06

**Staff:** Edie Adams (786-7180).

**Background:**

Animal fighting is an unranked class C felony offense under the state's animal cruelty laws. A person commits the crime of animal fighting if the person does any of the following:

- Owns, possesses, breeds, trains, buys, sells, advertises, or offers for sale any animal with the intent that the animal will be engaged in an exhibition of animal fighting;
- Promotes, organizes, conducts, participates in, advertises, or performs any service in the furtherance of an animal fight;
- Transports spectators to an animal fight;
- Serves as a stakeholder for any money wagered on an animal fight;
- Keeps or uses a place for animal fighting, allows a place to be used for animal fighting, or accepts payment for admission to an animal fight; or
- Takes or receives a stray or pet animal with the intent of using the stray animal or pet animal for animal fighting or for training or baiting for animal fighting.

Last session the crime of animal fighting was substantially revised. The crime was increased from a gross misdemeanor to a class C felony and the types of activities that constitute animal fighting were expanded. However, the provision making it a crime to be a spectator at an animal fight was removed.

**Summary of Bill:**

The crime of animal fighting is amended to require that the person act knowingly or intentionally with respect to promoting, organizing, conducting, participating in, advertising, performing a service for, transporting spectators to, or serving as a stakeholder for, an animal fight. In addition, the crime is amended to include a person who knowingly is a spectator of or prepares an animal fight. The element of serving as a stakeholder for money wagering is amended to provide that it applies to wagering at any place or building.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.