

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0504 **Date:** January 8, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Melton; Lebsock **Bill Status:** House Agriculture
 Sen. Balmer; Sonnenberg **Fiscal Analyst:** Kerry White (303-866-3469)

BILL TOPIC: INCREASE PENALTIES FOR ANIMAL FIGHTING

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
Cash Funds	<\$5,000	<\$5,000
State Expenditures	Potential minimal workload increase - see State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

This bill requires that fines be assessed against any offender convicted of the crime of animal fighting. Under the bill, fines must be at least \$1,000 for the first offense and at least \$5,000 for a second or subsequent offense. Under current law, fines are at the discretion of the court and may be up to \$1,000 for a first offense and up to \$5,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

Background

Over the past three years, there have been two convictions for the crime of animal fighting. Neither conviction included a fine.

State Revenue

Beginning in FY 2015-16, this bill is anticipated to increase state revenue by less than \$5,000 per year, credited to the Fines Collection Cash Fund in the Judicial Department. The fine for the crime of animal fighting is at least \$1,000 for a first offense and at least \$5,000 for a second or subsequent offense. Based on the small number of existing convictions, which were all for first offenses, the fiscal note assumes that any revenue generated is likely to be less than \$5,000 per year.

State Expenditures

To the extent that the new mandatory fines associated with a conviction for the crime of animal fighting causes more cases to go to trial, workload for the Judicial Department could increase. Based on the low number of existing cases, the fiscal note assumes that any such increase will be minimal and no additional appropriations are required.

Local Government Impact

As discussed in the State Expenditures section, if the bill causes more cases to go to trial, workload for district attorneys will increase by a minimal amount.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

District Attorneys

Judicial