

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL 654

Short Title: Revise Animal Fighting Laws. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Lowe and Britt (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 6, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE ATTENDANCE OF MINORS AT CERTAIN EXHIBITIONS
3 OF ANIMAL FIGHTING AND TO PROHIBIT POSSESSION OF CERTAIN ANIMALS
4 WITH THE INTENT THAT THEY BE USED IN EXHIBITIONS OF ANIMAL
5 FIGHTING.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

8 "**§ 14-362. Cockfighting.**

9 (a) A person who instigates, promotes, conducts, is employed at, allows property under
10 his ownership or control to be used for, participates as a spectator at, causes or allows a minor
11 under 18 years of age to be present at, or profits ~~from~~ from, an exhibition featuring the fighting
12 of a cock is guilty of a Class I felony. A lease of property that is used or is intended to be used
13 for an exhibition featuring the fighting of a cock is void, and a lessor who knows this use is made
14 or is intended to be made of his property is under a duty to evict the lessee immediately.

15 (b) A person who knowingly owns, possesses, trains, buys, sells, offers to buy or sell, or
16 transports a cock to be used in an exhibition featuring the fighting of that cock with another cock
17 or another animal is guilty of a Class I felony."

18 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 14-362.2(a) reads as rewritten:

19 "(a) A person who instigates, promotes, conducts, is employed at, provides a dog for,
20 causes or allows a minor under 18 years of age to be present at, allows property under the person's
21 ownership or control to be used for, gambles on, or profits from an exhibition featuring the baiting
22 of a dog or the fighting of a dog with another dog or with another animal is guilty of a Class H
23 felony. A lease of property that is used or is intended to be used for an exhibition featuring the
24 baiting of a dog or the fighting of a dog with another dog or with another animal is void, and a
25 lessor who knows this use is made or is intended to be made of the lessor's property is under a
26 duty to evict the lessee immediately."

27 **SECTION 3.** If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the
28 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect
29 without the invalid provisions or application and, to this end, the provisions of this act are
30 severable.

31 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses
32 committed on or after that date.

