

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/10/25 H3/19/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1611

By: Representative Gonzales

By: Senator Crowell

For An Act To Be Entitled

*AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF ANIMAL FIGHTING
WITH RESPECT TO THE OFFENSE OF UNLAWFUL ANIMAL
FIGHTING; TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF UNLAWFUL ROOSTER
FIGHTING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

*TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF ANIMAL
FIGHTING WITH RESPECT TO THE OFFENSE OF
UNLAWFUL ANIMAL FIGHTING; AND TO CREATE
THE OFFENSE OF UNLAWFUL ROOSTER
FIGHTING.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-62-120(f), concerning the definition of "animal fighting" with regard to unlawful animal fighting, is amended to read as follows:

(f)(1) As used in this section, "animal fighting" means organized fighting between ~~roosters or other birds or between~~ dogs, bears, or other animals.

(2) "Animal fighting" does not include lawful game fowl breeding or exhibition activities that use birds that are part of flocks certified in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture National Poultry Improvement Plan, as it existed on January 1, 2025.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 62, Subchapter 1, is amended



to add an additional section to read as follows:

5-62-128. Unlawful rooster fighting.

(a)(1) A person commits the offense of unlawful rooster fighting in the first degree if he or she knowingly:

(A) Organizes, promotes, or profits from rooster fighting;

or

(B) Receives money for the admission of another person to a location used for rooster fighting.

(2) Unlawful rooster fighting in the first degree is a Class D felony.

(b)(1) A person commits the offense of unlawful rooster fighting in the second degree if he or she knowingly:

(A) Pays to attend a rooster fight; or

(B) Participates in watching or carrying out an organized rooster fight.

(2) Unlawful rooster fighting in the second degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

(c) A person shall not be charged under this section solely for being present near a rooster fight unless there is reasonable cause to believe that the person paid to attend a rooster fight or was a knowing participant in watching or carrying out an organized rooster fight.

(d) A rooster shall not be seized by law enforcement under this section solely based on the arrest of a person for violating a provision of this section unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the rooster was used in rooster fighting.

(e) If a person is not convicted under this section, any seized rooster shall be immediately returned to the owner.

(f) A seized rooster shall not be euthanized unless a licensed veterinarian determines that the rooster is suffering from an untreatable medical condition.

/s/Gonzales