



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** H.B. 215 of the 131st G.A.

**Date:** June 15, 2015

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Reps. Sears and Bishoff

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** Adds to the types of activities associated with animal fighting that are criminal offenses and changes the penalties for some of those activities

### State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill adds some new activities associated with animal fighting as criminal offenses. As a consequence of the bill, there may be an increase in caseload handled by local courts. While there could be an increase in court costs, the increase would at least be partially offset by fine revenue.

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## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill adds to the types of activities associated with animal fighting that are criminal offenses and changes the penalty for some of those activities. Under current law, a person is prohibited from knowingly doing all of the following associated with animal fighting: (1) engaging in or being employed at cockfighting, bearbaiting, or pitting an animal against another, (2) receiving money for the admission of another to a place kept for such a purpose, and (3) using, training, or possessing any animal for seizing, detaining, or mistreating a domestic animal. A violation of these activities is a fourth degree misdemeanor which could include a jail term of not more than 30 days, a fine up to \$250, or both.

Under the bill, the prohibitions against (1) engaging in cockfighting, bearbaiting, or (2) pitting one animal against another and using, training, or possessing an animal for mistreating another animal would remain as fourth degree misdemeanors. Additionally, the bill would prohibit a person, while violating either of those prohibitions listed above, from knowingly doing any of the following: (1) being employed at cockfighting, bearbaiting, or pitting one animal against another, (2) betting on the results, (3) paying for admission to the event, (4) receiving anything of value in exchange for the admission of another person to the event, (5) using, possessing, or permitting or causing to be present any device or substance intended to enhance an animal's ability to fight, and (6) permitting or causing a minor to be present at the event if anyone present at or involved with the event is doing anything listed above. The bill makes a violation of these six prohibitions an unclassified felony with a fine up to \$10,000. As a result, this could minimally increase caseloads handled by the local courts. While there could be an increase in administrative costs for local courts, the increase would at least be partially offset by fine revenue.