

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 544
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/11/21

Short Title: Revise Animal Fighting Laws.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 14, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CRIMINALIZE THE ACT OF CAUSING A PERSON UNDER EIGHTEEN
3 YEARS OF AGE TO BE PRESENT AT AN EXHIBITION FEATURING ANIMAL
4 FIGHTING.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "§ 14-362. Cockfighting.

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

14 SECTION 2. G.S. 14-362.1 reads as rewritten:

15 "§ 14-362.1. Animal fights and baiting, other than cock fights, dog fights and dog baiting.

16 ...

17 (c) A person who participates as a spectator ~~at~~ at, or causes a person under 18 years of
18 age to be present at, an exhibition featuring the fighting or baiting of an animal, other than a cock
19 or a dog, is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

20"

21 SECTION 3. G.S. 14-362.2 reads as rewritten:

22 "§ 14-362.2. Dog fighting and baiting.

23 ...

24 (c) A person who participates as a spectator ~~at~~ at, or causes a person under 18 years of
25 age to be present at, an exhibition featuring the baiting of a dog or the fighting of a dog with
26 another dog or with another animal is guilty of a Class H felony.

27"

28 SECTION 4. This act becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to offenses
29 committed on or after that date.

