

NOTE: As provided in LFC policy, this report is intended only for use by the standing finance committees of the legislature. The Legislative Finance Committee does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this report when used for other purposes.

The most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Godbey DATE TYPED: 2/10/03 HB 559

SHORT TITLE: Prohibit Cockfighting SB _____

ANALYST: Wilson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
		Indeterminate			

Relates to Senate Bill 64

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD)
 Game & Fish Department (GFD)
 Livestock Board (LB)
 Attorney General's Office (AGO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 559 deletes the cockfighting exemption from the cruelty to animals statute and makes causing, sponsoring, arranging, holding or participating in cockfighting a fourth degree felony.

Significant Issues

- Animal rights groups state that cockfighting perpetuates violence in our communities. There is an undeniable link between cruelty to animals and violence toward humans.
- Intentional cruelty to animals and dog fighting are currently felonies in New Mexico. HB559 would extend protection to cocks.
- Cocks are creatures who do not have the capacity to consent to engage in the self-destructive behavior of fighting.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are significant law enforcement and court costs associated with cockfighting since these events tend to lead to or involve illegal activities such as gambling and abuse of alcohol.

RELATIONSHIP

HB 559 has the same intent as SB 64, but the wording in the two bills is different.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Cockfighting is banned in every state except New Mexico and Louisiana. Cockfighting is banned in 13 New Mexico counties including Bernalillo and in 28 municipalities including Albuquerque.

Many New Mexicans believe that allowing animals to fight is cruel. Animal Protection of New Mexico has a poll that shows that 81% of New Mexicans support a ban on cockfighting.

DW/njw