

SENATE BILL NO. 220

INTRODUCED BY K. GILLAN

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ADDING A KNOWING SPECTATOR TO THE LIST OF PERSONS WHO COMMIT THE OFFENSE OF CAUSING ANIMALS TO FIGHT; AND AMENDING SECTION 45-8-210, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 45-8-210, MCA, is amended to read:

"45-8-210. Causing animals to fight -- owners, trainers, and spectators -- penalties -- exception

-- definition. (1) A person commits the offense of causing animals to fight if the person:

(a) owns, possesses, keeps, or trains any animal with the intent that the animal fight or be engaged in an exhibition of fighting with another animal;

(b) allows or causes any animal to fight with another animal or causes any animal to menace or injure another animal for the purpose of sport, amusement, or gain;

(c) knowingly permits any act in violation of subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) to take place on any premises under the person's charge or control or aids or abets any act described in subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b);

(d) participates in or is a knowing spectator at any exhibition in which animals are fighting for the purpose of sport, amusement, or gain.

(2) A person convicted of violating this section is guilty of a felony and shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$5,000 or be imprisoned in the state prison for a term of not less than 1 year or more than 5 years, or both.

(3) Nothing in this section prohibits the following:

(a) accepted husbandry practices used in the raising of livestock or poultry;

(b) the use of animals in the normal and usual course of rodeo events; or

(c) the use of animals in hunting and training as permitted by law.

(4) For purposes of this section, "animal" means any cock, bird, dog, or mammal except a human."

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