

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB32

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Ingram

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources

4. Title: **Fighting of cocks and other animals; increases penalty**

5. Summary: The bill increases the penalty for engaging in the fighting of cocks or other animals, except dogs, from a Class 3 to a Class 1 misdemeanor. Currently, the penalties only apply if (i) the fighting occurs for money, prizes, or anything of value, (ii) an admissions fee is charged, or (iii) wagering occurs. These conditions are removed. The bill also makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to possess, own, train, or sell cocks or other animals, except dogs, for fighting.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to engage in the fighting of cock or other animal, except dogs. The bill also makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to possess, own, train or sell other animals for fighting. The penalties for a Class 1 misdemeanor include confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not more than \$2,500. Therefore, this proposal could result in an increase in the number of persons in jail. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails' operating costs, such as correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2007), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$28.42 per inmate per day in FY 2006.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, localities, judicial system.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

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cc: Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry