



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

**Raised Bill No. 5338**

LCO No. 1527



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF ANIMAL FIGHTING  
PARAPHERNALIA.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

3 (a) Any person who overdrives, drives when overloaded, overworks,  
4 tortures, deprives of necessary sustenance, mutilates or cruelly beats or  
5 kills or unjustifiably injures any animal, or who, having impounded or  
6 confined any animal, fails to give such animal proper care or neglects to  
7 cage or restrain any such animal from doing injury to itself or to another  
8 animal or fails to supply any such animal with wholesome air, food and  
9 water, or unjustifiably administers any poisonous or noxious drug or  
10 substance to any domestic animal or unjustifiably exposes any such  
11 drug or substance, with intent that the same shall be taken by an animal,  
12 or causes it to be done, or, having charge or custody of any animal,  
13 inflicts cruelty upon it or fails to provide it with proper food, drink or  
14 protection from the weather or abandons it or carries it or causes it to be  
15 carried in a cruel manner, or fights with or baits, harasses or worries any

16 animal for the purpose of making it perform for amusement, diversion  
17 or exhibition, shall, for a first offense, be fined not more than one  
18 thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or both, and for  
19 each subsequent offense, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

20 (b) Any person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates,  
21 tortures, wounds or kills an animal shall, (1) for a first offense, be guilty  
22 of a class D felony, and (2) for any subsequent offense, be guilty of a  
23 class C felony. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any  
24 licensed veterinarian while following accepted standards of practice of  
25 the profession or to any person while following approved methods of  
26 slaughter under section 22-272a, while performing medical research as  
27 an employee of, student in or person associated with any hospital,  
28 educational institution or laboratory, while following generally  
29 accepted agricultural practices or while lawfully engaged in the taking  
30 of wildlife.

31 (c) Any person who knowingly (1) owns, possesses, keeps or trains  
32 an animal engaged in an exhibition of fighting for amusement or gain,  
33 (2) possesses, keeps or trains an animal with the intent that it be engaged  
34 in an exhibition of fighting for amusement or gain, (3) permits an act  
35 described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection to take place on  
36 premises under his control, (4) acts as judge or spectator at an exhibition  
37 of animal fighting for amusement or gain, or (5) bets or wagers on the  
38 outcome of an exhibition of animal fighting for amusement or gain, shall  
39 be guilty of a class D felony.

40 (d) Any person who possesses, owns, buys, sells, transfers or  
41 manufactures animal fighting paraphernalia with the intent to engage  
42 in, wager upon, promote, facilitate or further an exhibition of animal  
43 fighting shall be guilty of a class E felony. For purposes of this section,  
44 "animal fighting paraphernalia" means any equipment, product,  
45 implement or material of any kind that is used, intended for use or  
46 designed for use in the training, preparation, conditioning or  
47 furtherance of animal fighting, including, but not limited to, breaking

48 sticks, cat mills, jennies, treadmills, fighting pits, spring poles, jump  
49 poles, flirt poles, unprescribed veterinary medicine, gaffs or slashers or  
50 heels, or any other sharp implement designed to be attached in place of  
51 the natural spur of a cock or game fowl.

52 [(d)] (e) Any person who intentionally injures any animal while such  
53 animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a  
54 peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally injures a dog  
55 that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as  
56 defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its  
57 duties under the supervision of the active individual member of such  
58 team, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

59 [(e)] (f) Any person who intentionally kills any animal while such  
60 animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a  
61 peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally kills a dog that  
62 is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as defined in  
63 section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its duties under  
64 the supervision of the active individual member of such team, shall be  
65 fined not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than  
66 ten years, or both.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2020	53-247
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To prohibit the sale of items that are used for animal fighting.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*