

By: Representative Whittington

To: Agriculture; Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 518

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT HOG AND CANINE FIGHTING WHEN INTENTIONALLY
2 CONDUCTED BY ANY PERSON; TO ENACT PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION; TO
3 AMEND SECTION 97-41-16, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE
4 CRIME OF MALICIOUS OR MISCHIEVOUS INJURY TO CERTAIN PETS; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "hog"
8 means a pig, swine or boar.

9 (2) It is unlawful for any person to organize or conduct any
10 commercial or private event, commonly referred to as a "catch,"
11 wherein there is a display of combat or fighting among one or more
12 domestic or feral canines and feral or domestic hogs and in which
13 it is intended or reasonably foreseeable that the canines or hogs
14 would be injured, maimed, mutilated or killed.

15 (3) It is unlawful for any person to intentionally do any of
16 the following for the purpose of organizing, conducting or
17 financially or materially supporting any event prohibited by this
18 section:

19 (a) Finance, commercially advertise, sell admission
20 tickets or employ persons.

21 (b) Own, manage or operate any facility or property.

22 (c) Supply, breed, train or keep canines or hogs.

23 (d) Knowingly purchase tickets of admission.

24 (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any
25 competitive event in which canines trained for hunting or herding
26 activities are released in an open or enclosed area to locate and
27 corner hogs, commonly referred to as a "bay event," and in which
28 competitive points are deducted if a hog is caught and held,

29 unless by these actions it is reasonably foreseeable that the
30 canines or hogs would be injured, maimed, mutilated or killed.

31 (5) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the
32 lawful hunting of hogs with canines or the use of canines for the
33 management, farming or herding of hogs which are livestock or the
34 private training of canines for the purposes enumerated in this
35 subsection provided that such training is conducted for the field
36 using accepted dog handling and training practices and is not in
37 violation of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section.

38 (6) Any person convicted under the provisions of this
39 section shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars
40 (\$1,000.00), imprisoned for not more than six (6) months, or both.

41 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-41-16, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
42 amended as follows:

43 97-41-16. (1) Any person who shall maliciously, either out
44 of a spirit of revenge or wanton cruelty, or who shall
45 mischievously kill, maim or wound, or injure any dog or cat, or
46 cause any person to do the same, shall be fined not more than One
47 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or be imprisoned not exceeding six
48 (6) months.

49 (2) In addition to such fine or imprisonment which may be
50 imposed, the court shall order that restitution be made to the
51 owner of such dog or cat. The measure for restitution in money
52 shall be the current replacement value of such loss and/or the
53 actual veterinarian fees, special supplies, loss of income and
54 other cost incurred as a result of actions in violation of
55 subsection (1) of this section.

56 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
57 and after July 1, 2006.