

By: Representative Smith (39th)

To: Agriculture

HOUSE BILL NO. 1541

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-41-18, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CORRECT AN INTERNAL REFERENCE IN THE PROVISION SETTING FORTH
3 THE CRIME OF CONDUCTING A FIGHT BETWEEN A CANINE AND A HOG; TO
4 REMOVE THE REPEAL DATE ON THE PROVISION; TO REQUIRE INTENT TO
5 COMMIT THE CRIME OF SUPPORTING SUCH A FIGHT AND TO CLARIFY THE
6 ELEMENTS OF SUCH OFFENSE; TO AMEND SECTION 97-41-11, MISSISSIPPI
7 CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-41-18, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 97-41-18. (1) For the purposes of this section, "hog" means
12 a pig, swine or boar.

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

19 (3) It is unlawful for any person to intentionally do any of
20 the following in order to financially or materially support any
21 event prohibited by this section:

22 (a) Finance, commercially advertise, sell admission
23 tickets or employ persons.

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

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

26 (d) Knowingly purchase tickets of admission.

27 (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any
28 competitive event in which canines trained for hunting or herding
29 activities are released in an open or enclosed area to locate and

30 corner hogs, commonly referred to as a "bay event," and in which
31 competitive points are deducted if a hog is caught and held.

32 (5) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the
33 lawful hunting of hogs with canines or the use of canines for the
34 management, farming or herding of hogs which are livestock or the
35 private training of canines for the purposes enumerated in this
36 subsection provided that such training is conducted for the field
37 using accepted dog handling and training practices and is not
38 otherwise in violation of the provisions of subsections (2) or (3)
39 of this section.

40 (6) Any person convicted under the provisions of this
41 section shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars
42 (\$1,000.00), imprisoned for not more than six (6) months, or both.

43 * * *

44 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-41-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
45 amended as follows:

46 97-41-11. Any person who shall keep or use, or in any way be
47 connected with or interested in the management of, or shall
48 receive money for the admission of any person to, any place kept
49 or used for the purpose of fighting any bear, cock or other
50 creature, * * * or of tormenting or torturing the same, and every
51 person who shall encourage, aid, or assist therein, or who shall
52 permit or suffer any place to be so kept or used, shall be guilty
53 of a misdemeanor. It shall be the duty of any policeman or other
54 officer of the law, county or municipal, to enter into any such
55 place kept for such purpose, and to arrest each and every person
56 concerned or participating therein.

57 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
58 and after July 1, 2007.