

By: Senator(s) Dawkins

To: Judiciary, Division A

## SENATE BILL NO. 2433

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-41-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE OFFENSE OF COCKFIGHTING AND THE PUNISHMENT THEREFOR;  
3 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-41-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 97-41-11. (1) Any person who shall keep or use, or in any  
8 way be connected with or interested in the management of, or shall  
9 receive money for the admission of any person to, any place kept  
10 or used for the purpose of fighting any bear \* \* \* or other  
11 creature, except a dog or rooster, or of tormenting or torturing  
12 the same, and every person who shall encourage, aid, or assist  
13 therein, or who shall permit or suffer any place to be so kept or  
14 used, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. It shall be the duty of  
15 any policeman or other officer of the law, county or municipal, to  
16 enter into any such place kept for such purpose, and to arrest  
17 each and every person concerned or participating therein.

18 (2) (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to:



19                   (i) Organize or conduct any commercial or private  
20 cockfight wherein there is a display of combat or fighting among  
21 one or more domestic or feral chickens and in which it is intended  
22 or reasonably foreseeable that the chickens would be injured,  
23 maimed, mutilated, or killed; or

24                   (ii) Possess, train, purchase, or sell any chicken  
25 with the intent that the chicken shall be engaged in an unlawful  
26 commercial or private cockfight as prohibited in this subsection  
27 (2).

28                   (b) (i) Whoever violates the provisions of this  
29 subsection (2), on conviction of a first offense, shall be fined  
30 not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or imprisoned for  
31 not more than six (6) months, or both.

32                   (ii) Upon conviction of a second or subsequent  
33 offense, the offender shall be fined not less than One Thousand  
34 Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor more than Five Thousand Dollars  
35 (\$5,000.00), or imprisoned in the custody of the Department of  
36 Corrections for a term of not less than one (1) nor more than  
37 three (3) years, or both.

38                   (3) (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to attend a  
39 cockfight, to wager on a cockfight, or to pay admission at any  
40 location to view or wager on a cockfight.

41                   (b) Whoever violates the provisions of this subsection  
42 (3) shall be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00),  
43 or imprisoned for not more than six (6) months, or both.



44           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
45 and after July 1, 2019.

