

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 817

To amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BASS, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. SABO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WOOLSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Animal Fighting Pro-  
5 hibition Enforcement Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBI-**  
2 **TIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 18, United  
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 **“§ 49. Animal fighting prohibition**

7 “(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN AN  
8 ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
10 graph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person to  
11 knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in an animal  
12 fighting venture, if any animal in the venture was  
13 moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

14 “(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN STATES.—  
15 With respect to fighting ventures involving live birds  
16 in a State where it would not be in violation of the  
17 law, it shall be unlawful under this subsection for a  
18 person to sponsor or exhibit a bird in the fighting  
19 venture only if the person knew that any bird in the  
20 fighting venture was knowingly bought, sold, deliv-  
21 ered, transported, or received in interstate or foreign  
22 commerce for the purpose of participation in the  
23 fighting venture.

24 “(b) BUYING, SELLING, DELIVERING, OR TRANS-  
25 PORTING ANIMALS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ANIMAL  
26 FIGHTING VENTURE.—It shall be unlawful for any person

1 to knowingly sell, buy, transport, or deliver, or receive for  
2 purposes of transportation, in interstate or foreign com-  
3 merce, any dog or other animal for purposes of having  
4 the dog or other animal participate in an animal fighting  
5 venture.

6 “(c) USE OF POSTAL SERVICE OR OTHER INTER-  
7 STATE INSTRUMENTALITY FOR PROMOTING ANIMAL  
8 FIGHTING VENTURE.—It shall be unlawful for any person  
9 to knowingly use the mail service of the United States  
10 Postal Service or any instrumentality of interstate com-  
11 merce for commercial speech promoting an animal fighting  
12 venture except as performed outside the limits of the  
13 States of the United States.

14 “(d) VIOLATION OF STATE LAW.—Notwithstanding  
15 subsection (c), the activities prohibited by such subsection  
16 shall be unlawful with respect to fighting ventures involv-  
17 ing live birds only if the fight is to take place in a State  
18 where it would be in violation of the laws thereof.

19 “(e) SHARP INSTRUMENTS.—It shall be unlawful for  
20 any person to knowingly sell, buy, transport, or deliver in  
21 interstate or foreign commerce a knife, a gaff, or any  
22 other sharp instrument attached, or designed or intended  
23 to be attached, to the leg of a bird for use in an animal  
24 fighting venture.

1       “(f) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates sub-  
2 section (a), (b), (c), or (e) shall be fined under this title  
3 or imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both, for each  
4 such violation.

5       “(g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

6           “(1) the term ‘animal fighting venture’ means  
7 any event which involves a fight between at least two  
8 animals and is conducted for purposes of sport, wa-  
9 gering, or entertainment except that the term ‘ani-  
10 mal fighting venture’ shall not be deemed to include  
11 any activity the primary purpose of which involves  
12 the use of one or more animals in hunting another  
13 animal or animals, such as waterfowl, bird, raccoon,  
14 or fox hunting;

15           “(2) the term ‘instrumentality of interstate  
16 commerce’ means any written, wire, radio, television  
17 or other form of communication in, or using a facil-  
18 ity of, interstate commerce;

19           “(3) the term ‘State’ means any State of the  
20 United States, the District of Columbia, the Com-  
21 monwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or pos-  
22 session of the United States; and

23           “(4) the term ‘animal’ means any live bird, or  
24 any live dog or other mammal, except man.

1       “(h) CONFLICT WITH STATE LAW.—The provisions  
2 of this section do not supersede or otherwise invalidate  
3 any such State, local, or municipal legislation or ordinance  
4 relating to animal fighting ventures except in case of a  
5 direct and irreconcilable conflict between any requirements  
6 thereunder and this section or any rule, regulation, or  
7 standard hereunder.”.

8       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
9 for chapter 3 of title 18, is amended by inserting after  
10 the item relating to section 48 the following:

“49. Animal fighting prohibition.”.

11       (c) REPEAL OF CRIMINAL PENALTY IN THE ANIMAL  
12 WELFARE ACT.—Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act  
13 (7 U.S.C. 2156) is amended by striking subsection (e).

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