

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
80R4047 JPL-D

H.B. 916  
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Criminal Justice  
5/18/2007  
Engrossed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Dog fighting has been illegal in this state for many years. However, despite the criminalization of these acts, illegal dog fights are occurring more and more often. The treatment of the animals at these events and the training methods leading up to these fights can be cruel and violent and outside the norm of humane conduct expected by the law-abiding citizens of Texas.

H.B. 916 changes the penalties for dog fighting and related activities.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 42.10(a), (c), (d), and (e), Penal Code, as follows:

- (a) Removes the provision that, knowingly or intentionally and for a pecuniary benefit, causing a dog to fight another dog is an offense. Makes conforming changes.
- (c) Makes conforming changes.
- (d) Makes conforming changes.
- (e) Redesignates offenses under Subsection (a)(1), (2), and (3) (regarding direct offenses, such as hosting a dog fighting event) as state jail felonies and offenses under Subsection (a)(4) and (5) (regarding indirect offenses, such as attending a dog fighting event) as Class A misdemeanors. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2007.