

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5650

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to repeal the extension of the prohibition on animal fighting to the territories.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

Mr. MOYLAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to repeal the extension of the prohibition on animal fighting to the territories.

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 Senator Jose ‘Pedo’
5 Terlaje Honoring Indigenous Traditions and Attributes
6 Act” or “The Senator Jose ‘Pedo’ Terlaje HITA Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF EXTENSION OF THE PROHIBITION ON**
8 **ANIMAL FIGHTING TO THE TERRITORIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 26 of the Animal Welfare
10 Act (7 U.S.C. 2156) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “It” and
3 inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (3),
4 it”; and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN STATES.—

7 With respect to fighting ventures involving live birds
8 in a State where it would not be in violation of the
9 law, it shall be unlawful under this subsection for a
10 person to sponsor or exhibit a bird in the fighting
11 venture only if the person knew that any bird in the
12 fighting venture was knowingly bought, sold, deliv-
13 ered, transported, or received in interstate or foreign
14 commerce for the purpose of participation in the
15 fighting venture.”;

16 (2) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f),
17 (g), (h), and (i) as subsection (e), (f), (g), (h), (i),
18 and (j), respectively; and

19 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(d) VIOLATION OF STATE LAW.—Notwithstanding
22 the provisions of subsection (c), the activities prohibited
23 by such subsection shall be unlawful with respect to fight-
24 ing ventures involving live birds only if the fight is to take

1 place in a State where it would be in violation of the laws
2 thereof.”.

3 (b) USE OF POSTAL SERVICE OR OTHER INTER-
4 STATE INSTRUMENTALITIES.—Section 26(c) of the Ani-
5 mal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2156(c)) is amended by strik-
6 ing “(d)” and inserting “(e)”.

7 (c) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Subsection (j) of section
8 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2156), as redesign-
9 nated, is amended by striking “(d)” and inserting “(e)”.

10 (d) ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBI-
11 TIONS.—Section 49(a) of title 18, United States Code, is
12 amended by striking “(d)” and inserting “(e)”.

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