



SUPPORT SENATE BILL 70

Sponsors: Sen. Craig Brandt and Rep. Catherine J. Cullen

THE PROBLEM: NEW MEXICO'S LAWS ON ANIMAL FIGHTING AND ORGANIZED CRIME AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH

- Dog fighting was outlawed in New Mexico in 1981, and cockfighting was made illegal in 2007. However, staged dog fights and cockfights continue, particularly those orchestrated by organized criminal gangs.
- New Mexico's law governing organized crime ("racketeering") does not cover organized dog fighting and cock fighting. Thus, organized animal fighting rings are not subject to the more adequate penalties and seizure of assets available under the racketeering law.
- Law enforcement professionals have long recognized that animal fighting rings are often part of larger criminal enterprises engaged in drug and arms trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, and other illegal activities. These criminal enterprises use assets, like vehicles and financial accounts, to facilitate their crimes.
- Without the racketeering law providing the ability to seize assets like vehicles, trailers, equipment, and cash, law enforcement is hampered in their efforts to break up animal fighting rings and the larger criminal enterprises to which they are connected.

SENATE BILL 70 WILL MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

- Incorporating organized animal fighting into our racketeering law will give prosecutors and law enforcement a tool they've long needed to crack down on organized crime. The seizure of assets is one of the most effective ways to stop organized crime syndicates from operating.
 - Strengthening New Mexico's racketeering law will bolster efforts to combat criminal organizations on multiple fronts, from traditional crimes like drug trafficking to emerging threats such as human trafficking and financial fraud.
- **Please amend SB 70 to include cockfighting** (in addition to dog fighting and other crimes) **as a racketeering predicate offense**
 - **And vote YES on SB 70**