



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1197

PRINTERS NO. 3471

PRIME SPONSOR: D. Costa

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1197, Printer's Number 3471 amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) further amending Section 911 (Corrupt organizations) by adding the offenses of animal fighting to the definition of racketeering.

ANALYSIS:

HB 1197, PN 3471 amends the Crimes Code by adding animal fighting offenses to the definition of racketeering. An individual in violation of Section 5543 (1), (2), (3), (4) or (7) will be found to be engaged in the act of racketeering. These subsections specifically pertain to the individuals who are directly involved in the animal fighting other than spectators or individuals wagering on the result.

This legislation will take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation would have an unknown fiscal impact on Commonwealth or county funds. Limited data makes it difficult to determine how many individuals may be arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced under the new definition of "racketeering" in Section 911 of the Crimes Code.

According to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, there has been one conviction relating to a violation of Section 5511 (h.1) (relating to animal cruelty-animal fighting) between December 2012 and December 2016. Act 10 of 2017 provided for a comprehensive re-write of the animal cruelty laws, therefore the previous offense relating to animal fighting found under Section 5511 (h.1) was rewritten into Section 5543 (Animal fighting).

PREPARED BY: Jenny P. Stratton
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 23, 2018

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.