

**Senate Bill No. 566**

(By Senators Kessler, Unger, Yoder, Jenkins and Hunter)

[Introduced February 4, 2008; referred to the Committee on Agriculture; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §61-8-19c, relating to making it a felony to wager at animal fighting ventures; making it a felony to conduct, finance, manage, supervise, own or lease any part of an animal fighting venture or the premises on which it takes place with knowledge that wagering is occurring; and providing criminal penalty.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §61-8-19c, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 8. CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY, MORALITY AND DECENCY.**

**§61-8-19c. Wagering at animal fighting prohibited; penalty.**

- (a) It is unlawful for any person to bet or wager money or any other thing of value in any location or place where an animal fighting venture occurs.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person to conduct, finance, manage, supervise, direct, lease or own all or a part of a business or premises involving betting or wagering on an animal fighting venture with the knowledge that the betting or wagering is occurring.
- (b) Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars and not more than five thousand dollars, or confined in a state correctional facility not less than one year, or both fined and confined.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make wagering at animal fighting ventures and conducting, financing, managing, supervising, owning or leasing any part of an animal fighting venture or the premises on which it takes place with knowledge that wagering is occurring a felony.

§61-8-19c is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.