

**RÉSUMÉ DIGEST****ACT 359 (SB 476)****2024 Regular Session****Owen**

Existing law creates the crime of dogfighting and provides that no person can intentionally:

- (1) For amusement or gain, cause any dog to fight with another dog, or cause any dogs to injure each other.
- (2) Permit any act to be done on any premises under his charge or control, or aid or abet any such act that, for amusement or gain, causes any dog to fight with another dog, or causes dogs to injure each other.
- (3) Promote, stage, advertise, or be employed at a dogfighting exhibition.
- (4) Sell a ticket of admission or receive money for the admission of any person to any place used, or about to be used, for dogfighting.
- (5) Own, manage, or operate any facility kept or used for dogfighting.
- (6) Knowingly attend as a spectator at any organized dogfighting event.
- (7) Own, possess, keep, or train a dog for purpose of dogfighting.

New law retains existing law.

A violation of existing law is punishable by a fine between \$1,000 and \$25,000, or imprisonment with or without hard labor for between one year and 10 years, or both.

New law increases the minimum fine from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and otherwise retains existing law.

New law defines "bait dog" as a dog that is used as bait to train another dog to be more aggressive and accustomed to attacking other dogs for the purpose of dogfighting.

New law provides that possessing or using a bait dog to train another dog for dogfighting is admissible as evidence against a person charged with the crime of dogfighting. However, new law does not prohibit owning or possessing a former bait dog for the purpose of providing it with rehabilitative care.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 14:102.5(B) and (C); adds R.S. 14:102.5(A)(7)(b)(iv) and (D)(5))