

# Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-235

AN ACT CONCERNING VETERINARY REPORTING OF DOGS USED IN

**Title:** ANIMAL FIGHTING.

**Vote Date:** 3/28/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/14/2022

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL**

Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Sen. Martin M. Looney, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To require veterinarians to report to local law enforcement agencies when they treat dogs that they believe have been used in animal fighting

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None Expressed

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Sen. Martin M. Looney, 11<sup>th</sup> District, President Pro Tempore**

Veterinarians have professional training and skills that allow them to accurately identify abuse. Animal abuse is often covert, and veterinarians may be the only ones in a position to notice or report it. Other states have recognized this by making veterinarians mandated reporters, and Connecticut could take an important step towards curbing animal abuse and the barbaric practice of dogfighting, identifying and preventing peripheral crimes and intervening in the potential abuse of persons.

### **Jo Anne Basile, Executive Director CT Votes for Animals**

SB 235 gives law enforcement one more tool to fight the crime of dogfighting. The bill gives veterinarians protection from civil liability charges in making this report.

### **Robin Cannamela, Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates**

Raised bill 235 supports giving law enforcement one more tool to fight this crime of dog fighting.

**Annie Hornish, Connecticut State Director, The Humane Society of the US**

We support SB 235 to help stop dogfighting by having veterinarians report abuse to law enforcement.

**Melissa Shapiro, DVM, Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association**

We strongly support SB 235 which would require Connecticut veterinarians to report to local law enforcement when they treat dogs they believe to have been used in animal fighting. The bill also grants veterinarians immunity from civil liability for such reporting.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Judith Ganswindt**

**Date: March 31, 2022**