

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8723

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit gambling on animal fighting ventures, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2026

Mr. BACON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit gambling on animal fighting ventures, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fighting Inhumane
5 Gambling and High-risk Trafficking Act of 2026” or the
6 “FIGHT Act of 2026”.

7 **SEC. 2. ANIMAL FIGHTING.**

8 Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
9 2156) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the section designation and
2 header and all that follows through “It shall be un-
3 lawful” in subsection (a)(2) and inserting the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“SEC. 26. SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN, AT-**
6 **TENDING, CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS**
7 **NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO ATTEND,**
8 **OR GAMBLING ON, AN ANIMAL FIGHTING**
9 **VENTURE.**

10 “(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any
12 person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in
13 an animal fighting venture.

14 “(2) ATTENDING OR CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL
15 WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO AT-
16 TEND.—It shall be unlawful”; and

17 (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(3) ANIMAL VENTURE GAMBLING.—It shall be
20 unlawful for any person to gamble on an animal
21 fighting venture, including an in-person or broadcast
22 event.”.

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