



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John A. DeFrancisco

## Senate Passes Legislation to Increase Penalties for Participating in Animal Fighting

[JOHN A. DEFRANCISCO](#) June 20, 2011

Senator John A. DeFrancisco (R-I-C, Syracuse) today announced legislation that he co-sponsored (S3237-A) to increase penalties for those who have knowingly participated in animal fighting passed the New York State Senate.

“The criminal organization and participation in the cruel activity of animal fighting unfortunately still takes place in New York State despite the penalties currently associated with it,” said Senator DeFrancisco. “This legislation would strengthen the current laws against animal fighting and ensure that anyone attending an animal fight would face tougher penalties. Without spectators, there would be no animal fighting.”

Under this bill, anyone knowingly attending an exhibition of animal fighting can be charged with a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, a monetary fine, or both.

“It is a crime for anyone to simply attend an animal fight. This bill would take a great stride towards enforcing that law, with real penalties, while continuing New York State’s efforts to eliminate animal fighting,” concluded Senator DeFrancisco, “We cannot allow this activity to continue.”

The bill has been sent to the Assembly.