



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John A. DeFrancisco

## Animal Fighting Bill Signed Into Law

JOHN A. DEFRANCISCO August 9, 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, was signed into law and will take effect in 30 days.

“The criminal organization and participation in the cruel activity of animal fighting unfortunately still takes place in New York State despite the penalties associated with it,” said Senator DeFrancisco. “This new law strengthens the current laws against animal fighting by ensuring that anyone who attends an animal fight will face tougher penalties. I commend Governor Cuomo for signing this bill into law.”

Under the new law, 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 attend an animal fight. Without spectators, the events would not happen. This law will take great strides towards enforcing real penalties, while continuing New York State’s efforts to eliminate animal fighting,” concluded Senator DeFrancisco, “We cannot allow this activity to continue.”