
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 928 (Rogers) - Roosters: restrictions

Version: June 2, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 7 - 2, JUD. 8 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 928, beginning January 1, 2028, prohibits a person from keeping more than 25 movement constrained roosters, subject to certain exceptions, and imposes a \$2,500 civil penalty per violation, as specified.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown court cost pressures, ranging from minor to significant (General Fund and special funds), to the extent the Attorney General (AG) brings civil actions to enforce the bill's restrictions on keeping roosters. Actual costs will depend on the number of actions filed and the specific factors and duration of each case. For context, an eight-hour court day costs approximately \$8,000 in staff workload. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, increased caseloads could delay court services and put pressure on the General Fund to support additional resources and backfill trial court operations.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) reports that it does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact; this assessment suggests the department may not actively pursue enforcement using the authority prescribed in the bill or may absorb enforcement costs within its existing resources.

Background: Cockfighting has been illegal in California for over 100 years and is considered a form of animal cruelty. Section 597b of the Penal Code makes cockfighting a misdemeanor, and the Legislature has considered and approved a number of bills in recent years to strengthen the prohibition. Regardless, cockfighting continues to occur in this state, including the breeding and selling of roosters. These roosters are kept in small enclosures or tethered so they have little movement and are separated from other animals.

Proposed Law:

- Establishes the following definitions:
 - "Enclosure" means a structure used for confinement, including a wire cage or item traditionally used for another purpose such as a water tank or plastic barrel that is both used to provide long-term housing for one rooster and prevent physical contact with other roosters.
 - "Gamefowl rooster" means a rooster of a breed of domestic fowl chiefly developed or maintained for the purpose of producing fighting cocks.

- “Rooster” means a male chicken that is six months of age or older, has full adult plumage, is capable of crowing, and is not a bantam chicken.
- On and after January 1, 2028, prohibits a person from keeping more than 25 roosters that are movement constrained through the use of an enclosure or tether. Provides the following exceptions:
 - A person who keeps or raises roosters for purposes of food production if the person is subject to local, state, or federal inspection laws or regulations.
 - A public or private school registered with the State Department of Education.
 - A government-operated animal shelter.
 - A nonprofit animal welfare organization, as specified.
 - A 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), or Grange project, if the 4-H, FFA, or Grange has provided written approval for the project to the person keeping or raising the roosters.
 - A person who meets all of the following criteria: owns and breeds poultry for the purpose of lawful exhibition in accordance with accepted poultry raising practices and all laws and regulations governing exhibition; within the preceding 10 years, has not been convicted for any cockfighting offense, as specified; and does not possess more than 25 gamefowl roosters.
- Provides that a person who violates these provisions shall be liable for a civil penalty, not to exceed \$2,500 for each violation, which shall be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the people of the State of California by the Attorney General, a county counsel, a city attorney, or a city prosecutor in this state in a court of competent jurisdiction.
 - Civil penalties collected pursuant to this chapter shall be paid to the county in which the action was brought.
 - Each day a rooster is kept in violation of this part shall constitute a separate and distinct violation.
 - Before a civil action is brought, where public safety is not at risk, a written notice of violation shall be provided granting a minimum of 14 days to correct the violation and to rehome or relinquish the roosters.
- Provides that a city or county is not prevented from adopting or enforcing ordinances on the keeping of roosters that are more restrictive than the requirements in the bill.
- Provides that the bill does not limit or affect the application or enforcement of any other law that protects animals.
- States legislative findings and declarations.