The Louisiana House of Representatives Wednesday gutted a bill aimed at prohibiting organized dogfights by adopting an amendment that restricts enforcement of the law. The House passed the bill 87-6.

The House amendments are expected to be opposed.

Rep. Raymond Lalonde, D-Sunset suggested the proposed amendment that would require lawmen to prove that injuries suffered by a dog were the result of a fight held within 48 hours.

Rep. Emile Bruneau, Ind.-New Orleans claimed that provision would make the bill ineffective.

Rep. John N. John, D-Crowley admitted he was attempting to cripple the bill. “you are meddling with a people’s way of life,” John addressed the House, “Dogfighting is part of our heritage.”

Bruneau urged passage of the original bill describing dogfighting as “a terrible type of performance...I can’t bring myself to call it a sport.”

When the Senate took action on the bill earlier in the session it was weakened by making dogfighting a misdemeanor rather than a felony.

Dogfighting is illegal in the state but authorities complain that the present light penalties make it hard to enforce. The fighting of pit bull terriers is widespread in certain areas of the state including South Louisiana.