

2015 -- H 5505

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, Shekarchi, O'Brien, Kazarian, and McKiernan

Date Introduced: February 12, 2015

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 4-1.1-1, 4-1.1-2, 4-1.1-3, 4-1.1-4 and 4-1.1-5 of the General Laws
2 in Chapter 4-1.1 entitled "Unlawful Confinement of a Covered Animal" are hereby amended to
3 read as follows:

4 **4-1.1-1. Definitions.** -- For the purposes of this chapter:

5 (1) "Calf raised for veal" means a calf of the bovine species kept for the purpose of
6 producing the food product referred to as veal.

7 ~~(2) "Crate" means a "gestation crate" for sows or a "veal crate" for calves.~~

8 (2) "Covered animal" means any sow during gestation, calf raised for veal, or egg-laying
9 hen that is kept on a farm.

10 (3) "Egg-laying hen" means any female domesticated chicken, turkey, duck, goose, or
11 guinea fowl kept for the purpose of egg production.

12 (4) "Enclosure" means any cage, crate, or other structure used to confine a covered
13 animal. Enclosure includes what is commonly described as a "gestation crate or stall" for sows
14 during gestation, a "veal crate" for calves raised for veal, or a "battery cage" for egg-laying hens.

15 ~~(3)~~(5) "Farm" means the land, building, support facilities, and other equipment that are
16 wholly or partially used for the commercial production of animals or animal products used for
17 food or fiber; and does not include live animal markets.

18 ~~(4)~~(6) "Farm owner or operator" means any person who owns or controls the operation
19 of a farm, and does not include any non-management employee, contractor, or consultant.

1 ~~(5)~~(7) "Fully extending the animal's limbs" means fully extending all limbs without
2 touching the side of an enclosure. In the case of egg-laying hens, "fully extending the animal's
3 limbs" means fully spreading both wings without touching the side of an enclosure or other egg-
4 laying hens and having access to at least two hundred sixteen (216) square inches of usable floor
5 space per hen.

6 ~~(6)~~(8) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association,
7 limited liability company, corporation, estate, trust, receiver, or syndicate.

8 ~~(7)~~(9) "Sow during gestation" means a pregnant pig of the porcine species kept for the
9 purpose of breeding.

10 ~~(8)~~(10) "Turning around freely" means turning in a complete circle without any
11 impediment including a tether, and without touching the side of a ~~crate~~ an enclosure or another
12 animal.

13 **4-1.1-2. Purpose.** -- The purpose of this chapter, subject to exceptions set forth in § 4-
14 1.1-4, is to prohibit the confinement of ~~ealves raised for veal and sows during gestation~~ a covered
15 animal in a manner that prevents the animal from turning around fully, lying down, standing up or
16 fully extending the animal's limbs.

17 **4-1.1-3. Unlawful confinement.** -- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person
18 is guilty of unlawful confinement of a ~~sow or calf~~ covered animal if the person is a farm owner or
19 operator who knowingly tethers or confines any ~~sow or calf~~ covered animal in a manner that
20 prevents such animal from turning around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending the
21 animal's limbs.

22 **4-1.1-4. Exceptions.** -- This section shall not apply:

23 (1) During medical research.

24 (2) Temporary confinement prior to and during examination, testing, individual
25 treatment or operation for veterinary purposes.

26 (3) During transportation.

27 (4) During rodeo exhibitions, state or county fair exhibitions, 4-H programs, and similar
28 exhibitions or educational programs.

29 (5) During temporary confinement for animal husbandry purposes for no more than six
30 (6) hours in any twenty-four (24) hour period unless ordered by a licensed veterinarian.

31 (6) During the humane slaughter of a ~~sow or pig~~ covered animal accordance with the
32 provisions of chapter 4-17, and other applicable laws and regulations.

33 (7) To a sow during the fourteen (14) day period prior to the sows expected date of
34 giving birth and extending for a duration of time until the piglets are weaned. This period may be

1 modified upon the order of a licensed veterinarian.

2 (8) To calves being trained to exhibit.

3 (9) To calves being trained to accept routine confinement in dairy and beef housing.

4 **4-1.1-5. Penalty.** -- (a) The provisions of this chapter are in addition to, and not in lieu of,
5 any other laws protecting animal welfare. This chapter may not be construed to limit any other
6 state laws or rules protecting the welfare of animals or to prevent a local governing body from
7 adopting and enforcing its own animal welfare laws and regulations.

8 (b) It is not an affirmative defense to alleged violations of this chapter that the ~~ealf or~~
9 ~~sow~~ covered animal was kept as part of an agricultural operation and in accordance with
10 customary animal husbandry or farming practices.

11 (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this chapter or any rules or regulations
12 promulgated hereunder shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor exceeding five
13 hundred dollars (\$500), or both.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect one year after its passage and enactment.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would make changes in the definitions of what constitutes unlawful confinement,
- 2 and would apply them throughout the chapter accordingly.
- 3 This act would take effect one year after its passage and enactment.

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