

2019 -- H 5265

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LC001213
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- THE ANIMAL RIGHTS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Lima, Noret, Donovan, and Ackerman

Date Introduced: February 01, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-1 of the General Laws entitled "Cruelty to Animals" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-1-44. Animal rights advisory council established.**

4 (a) There is hereby created and established an advisory council to be known as "The
5 Rhode Island animal rights advisory council" (the "council"). The purpose of the council shall be
6 to advise the governor and the general assembly on matters relating to animal rights, treatment,
7 health, and abuse, and to provide recommendations on how best to promote the health and safety
8 of all animals in the state.

9 (b) The council shall consist of sixteen (16) members as follows:

10 (1) The director of the department of health, or designee;

11 (2) The director of the department of environmental management, or designee;

12 (3) The Rhode Island state veterinarian; or designee;

13 (4) A family court magistrate, to be appointed by the governor;

14 (5) A representative from the Potter League for Animals, to be appointed by the league's
15 governing body;

16 (6) An animal control officer employed by a municipality within the state, to be
17 appointed by the governor;

18 (7) A representative from the Providence Animal Rescue League, to be appointed by the

1 league's governing body;
2 (8) A representative from the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to
3 Animals, to be appointed by the society's governing body;
4 (9) A representative from the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association, to be
5 appointed by the association's governing body;
6 (10) A representative from Friends of Homeless Animals, to be appointed by the
7 organization's governing body;
8 (11) A representative from the RIVMA Companion Animal Foundation, to be appointed
9 by the foundation's governing body;
10 (12) A representative from The Rhode Island Horsemen's Association, to be appointed by
11 the association's governing body;
12 (13) A representative from the Defenders of Animals, Inc., to be appointed by the
13 organization's governing body;
14 (14) A representative from the Rhode Island Kennel Club, to be appointed by the club's
15 local governing body;
16 (15) A representative from PawsWatch, to be appointed by the organization's governing
17 body; and
18 (16) A representative from Volunteer Services for Animals, to be appointed by the
19 organization's governing body.
20 (c) The membership of the council shall receive no compensation for their services.
21 (d) Commencing on December 1, 2019, and in the month of December of each year
22 thereafter, the council shall submit a written report to the governor and to the general assembly
23 detailing its activities in that year and providing recommendations on matters relating to animal
24 rights, treatment and abuse, and on how best to promote and enhance the health and safety of all
25 animals in the state.
26 (e) The members of the council appointed pursuant to §§ 4-1-44(b)(1) through (b)(3)
27 shall serve on the council so long as they hold their position. The family court magistrate shall
28 serve on the council for a term of five (5) years and may be reappointed by the governor. The
29 remaining members shall be appointed to the council for terms of four (4) years, except that the
30 initial terms of those members shall be as follows: six (6) members appointed pursuant to §§ 4-1-
31 44(b)(5) through (b)(10) shall serve an initial term of three (3) years; and six (6) members
32 appointed pursuant to §§ 4-1-44(b)(11) through (b)(16) shall serve initial terms of two (2) years.
33 Any member may be reappointed. Any vacancy in the office of a member shall be filled in the
34 same manner as provided for the original appointment, and any such appointment shall be for the

1 [balance of the then current term of that office.](#)

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- THE ANIMAL RIGHTS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

- 1 This act would establish an animal rights advisory council to advise the governor and the
- 2 general assembly on matters relating to animal rights, treatment, health, and safety.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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