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LC00826/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- UNLAWFUL CONFINEMENT
OF A COVERED ANIMAL

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Perry, Miller, and Tassoni

Date Introduced: January 24, 2012

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 4 of the General Laws entitled "ANIMALS AND ANIMAL
2 HUSBANDRY" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 1.1

4 UNLAWFUL CONFINEMENT OF A COVERED ANIMAL

5 **4-1.1-1. Definitions.** – For the purposes of this chapter:

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

8 (2) “Crate” means a “gestation crate” for sows or a “veal crate” for calves.

9 (3) “Farm” means the land, building, support facilities, and other equipment that are
10 wholly or partially used for the commercial production of animals or animal products used for
11 food or fiber; and does not include live animal markets.

12 (4) “Farm owner or operator” means any person who owns or controls the operation of a
13 farm, and does not include any non-management employee, contractor, or consultant.

14 (5) “Fully extending the animal’s limbs” means fully extending all limbs without
15 touching the side of an enclosure.

16 (6) “Person” means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, limited
17 liability company, corporation, estate, trust, receiver, or syndicate.

18 (7) “Sow during gestation” means a pregnant pig of the porcine species kept for the

1 purpose of breeding.

2 (8) "Turning around freely" means turning in a complete circle without any impediment
3 including a tether, and without touching the side of a crate.

4 **4-1.1-2. Purpose.** – The purpose of this chapter, subject to exceptions set forth in section
5 4-1.1-4, is to prohibit the confinement of calves raised for veal and sows during gestation.

6 **4-1.1-3. Unlawful confinement.** -- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person
7 is guilty of unlawful confinement of a sow or calf if the person is a farm owner or operator who
8 knowingly tethers or confines any sow or calf in a manner that prevents such animal from turning
9 around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending the animal's limbs.

10 **4-1.1-4. Exceptions.** -- This section shall not apply:

11 (1) During medical research.

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

14 (3) During transportation.

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

17 (5) During temporary confinement for animal husbandry purposes for no more than six

18 (6) hours in any twenty-four (24) hour period unless ordered by a licensed veterinarian.

19 (6) During the humane slaughter of a covered animal in accordance with the provisions of
20 chapter 4-17, and other applicable laws and regulations.

21 (7) To a sow during the fourteen (14) day period prior to the sows expected date of giving
22 birth and extending for a duration of time until the piglets are weaned. This period may be
23 modified upon the order of a licensed veterinarian.

24 (8) To calves being trained to exhibit.

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

26 **4-1.1-5. Penalty.** -- (a) The provisions of this chapter are in addition to, and not in lieu of,
27 any other laws protecting animal welfare. This chapter may not be construed to limit any other
28 state laws or rules protecting the welfare of animals or to prevent a local governing body from
29 adopting and enforcing its own animal welfare laws and regulations.

30 (b) It is not an affirmative defense to alleged violations of this chapter that the calf or sow
31 was kept as part of an agricultural operation and in accordance with customary animal husbandry
32 or farming practices.

33 (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this chapter or any rules or regulations
34 promulgated hereunder shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor exceeding five

1 hundred dollars (\$500), or both.

2 **4-1.1-6. Severability.** – If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any
3 person or circumstances, is held invalid or unconstitutional, that invalidity or unconstitutionality
4 shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter that can be given effect without the
5 invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter
6 are declared to be severable.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect one year after its passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- UNLAWFUL CONFINEMENT
OF A COVERED ANIMAL

- 1 This act would prohibit the unlawful confinement of calves raised for veal or sows during
- 2 gestation.
- 3 This act would take effect one year after its passage.

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