

2012 -- S 2192

=====  
LC00177  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Sosnowski, Walaska, McCaffrey, and Bates

Date Introduced: January 24, 2012

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

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           **4-1-6.1. Operating upon tails of bovines prohibited. -- (a) Any person who**  
4 intentionally cuts the bone, tissues, muscles or tendons of the tail of any bovine or otherwise  
5 operates upon it in any manner for the purpose or with the effect of docking, setting, or otherwise  
6 altering the natural carriage of the tail, or who knowingly permits the same to be done upon the  
7 premises of which he or she is the owner, lessee, proprietor or user, or who assists in or is  
8 voluntarily present at such cutting, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for  
9 not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or both. If any  
10 bovine is found with the bone, tissues, muscles or tendons of its tail cut as aforesaid upon the  
11 premises or in the charge and custody of any person, and the wound resulting therefrom is  
12 unhealed, such fact shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section by the owner or  
13 user of such premises, or the person having such charge or custody.

14           (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to tail docking  
15 performed by a veterinarian for veterinary purposes, provided that the procedure is performed  
16 under the following conditions:

17           (1) The animal has been adequately anesthetized to minimize the animal's pain and  
18 suffering during the treatment or operation.

19           (2) The procedure is done in a way that minimizes the long-term pain and suffering

1 resulting from the procedure.

2 (3) The veterinarian uses suitable instruments.

3 (4) The procedure is done under hygienic conditions.

4 (c) The owner of any bovine with a docked tail who purchased the bovine in a state  
5 where tail docking is legal shall be exempt from prosecution under this section.

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

=====  
LC00177  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

\*\*\*

1           This act would prohibit the docking of the tails of bovines except under certain  
2 conditions.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC00177  
=====