

2012 -- S 2192 SUBSTITUTE A

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LC00177/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

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

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

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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