

2012 -- S 2192 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED

=====
LC00177/SUB A
=====

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 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 may be evidence of a violation of this section by the
13 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.

=====
LC00177/SUB A
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
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.

=====
LC00177/SUB A
=====