

2013 -- H 5426

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LC01301
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, Fellela, Costa, Shekarchi, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: February 13, 2013

Referred To: House Judiciary

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 **4-1-41. Devocalization or declawing as requirement for property occupancy**
4 **prohibited.** -- (a) No person or corporation that occupies, owns, manages, or provides services in
5 connection with any real property, including the individual's or corporation's agents or
6 successors-in-interest, may do any of the following if the person or corporation allows an animal
7 on the subject premises:

8 (1) Advertise, through any means, the availability of real property for occupancy in a
9 manner designed to discourage application for occupancy of that real property because the
10 applicant's animal has not been declawed or devocalized;

11 (2) Refuse to allow the occupancy of any real property, refuse to negotiate the occupancy
12 of any real estate property, or to otherwise make unavailable or deny to any other person the
13 occupancy of any real property because of that person's refusal to declaw or devocalize any
14 animal; or

15 (3) Require any tenant or occupant of real property to declaw or devocalize any animal
16 allowed on the premises.

17 (b) Any person found in violation of this section shall be fined not more than one
18 thousand dollars (\$1,000). In addition to any other penalty provided by law, a person fined under
19 this section may be barred from owning or possessing any animals, or living on the same property

1 with someone who owns or possesses animals, for a period of time deemed appropriate by the
2 court, and be required to take humane education, pet ownership and dog training classes as
3 ordered by the court.

4 (c) Nothing contained within this section shall be construed as forbidding a person or
5 corporation that occupies, owns, manages, or provides services in connection with any real
6 property, including the individual's or corporation's agents or successors-in-interest, from
7 prohibiting any animal on the premises.

8 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 -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

1 This act would provide penalties for requiring the devocalization of dogs and cats as a
2 condition of real estate occupancy.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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