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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, and Serpa

Date Introduced: February 12, 2016

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           **4-1-43. Use of bullhooks or similar devices on elephants prohibited. – (a)**  
4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who houses, possesses, or is in direct  
5 contact with an elephant may not:

6           (1) Use a bullhook, ankus, baseball bat, axe handle, pitchfork, or similar device designed  
7 to inflict pain for the purpose of training or controlling the behavior of an elephant; or

8           (2) Permit an employee, agent, or contractor to use a bullhook, ankus, baseball bat, axe  
9 handle, pitchfork, or similar device designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training or  
10 controlling the behavior of an elephant.

11           (b) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than  
12 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or by both  
13 such fine and imprisonment.

14           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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- 1 This act would prohibit the use of bullhooks or similar devices on elephants.
- 2 This act would take effect on January 1, 2017.

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