

2017 -- H 6216

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - ANIMAL CARE

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Shekarchi, Winfield, Slater, and Messier

Date Introduced: May 12, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-19 of the General Laws entitled "Animal Care" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-19-7.1. Renting or leasing of dogs and cats prohibited.**

4 (a) The rental or leasing of a dog or cat, as a "forever pet" by any business or individual is
5 hereby prohibited. A "Forever Pet" is defined as any dog or cat purchased from a business or
6 person which purchase does not vest permanent ownership in the buyer.

7 (b) No person or business may enter into any rental, leasing or loan agreement for the
8 sale of a dog or cat in which the animal is used as collateral for the agreement and/or loan or is
9 subject to repossession in any manner.

10 (c) Any business or person entering or offering a dog or cat for lease or rental in violation
11 of this section shall be fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the first violation and five
12 thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each subsequent violation.

13 (d) Any business found to be in violation of this section may also have its retail license
14 suspended or revoked at the discretion of the court.

15 (e) No Rhode Island financial institution may offer a loan agreement for the sale or lease
16 of a "forever pet" in which the animal is used as collateral for the loan or is subject to
17 repossession upon default. Any financial institution found in violation of this section shall be
18 fined one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the first violation and five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for
19 each subsequent violation.

1 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 - ANIMAL CARE

1 This act would prohibit the rental, lease, or financing of any sale of a dog or cat by any
2 person, firm, or corporation with violations punishable by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000)
3 for the first violation and five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each subsequent violation and/or
4 revocation of its retail sales license. Any violations by a financial institution offering any
5 financial agreement for the renting or leasing of a dog or cat shall be punishable by a one
6 thousand dollar (\$1,000) fine for first violation and five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each
7 subsequent violation.

8 This act would take effect upon passage.

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