

2021 -- H 5737

LC001230

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE—VIOLATIONS

Introduced By: Representative Joseph J. Solomon

Date Introduced: February 24, 2021

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 20-1-16 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-1 entitled "General  
2 Provisions" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **20-1-16. Penalty for violations.**

4 (a) Unless otherwise specifically provided, the violation of any law or rule or regulation  
5 relating to wild animals, wild birds, lobsters and fish, marine, freshwater and anadromous fisheries  
6 and shellfisheries shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than ~~five hundred~~  
7 ~~dollars (\$500)~~ one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or imprisonment for up to ninety (90) days, or both.

8 (b) Striped bass penalties. Any person, firm, or corporation shall be fined in accordance  
9 with the following schedule:

10 (1) First offense. Upon conviction, not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) for each striped  
11 bass taken, possessed, sold or possessed, and/or offered for sale and imprisonment for up to ninety  
12 (90) days, or both.

13 (2) Second offense. Upon conviction, not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) for each  
14 striped bass taken, possessed, sold or possessed, and/or offered for sale and imprisonment for up to  
15 ninety (90) days, or both; and any boat, fishing tackle or other implements used in violation shall  
16 be subject to forfeiture to the state.

17 (3) Third and subsequent offenses. Upon conviction, not less than five hundred dollars  
18 (\$500) for each striped bass taken, possessed, sold or possessed, and/or offered for sale and  
19 imprisonment for up to ninety (90) days, or both; and any boat, fishing tackle or other implements

1 used in this violation shall be subject to forfeiture to the state. [Any person convicted of multiple](#)  
2 [violations on a single occurrence of the provisions of this chapter by the department of](#)  
3 [environmental management shall have their name and photo posted on social media or Internet](#)  
4 [based platforms.](#)

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would enhance the penalty for the violation of any law rule or regulation relating  
2 to wild animals, wild birds, lobsters and fish, marine, freshwater and anadromous fisheries and  
3 shellfisheries from five hundred dollars (\$500) to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and require an  
4 individual convicted of multiple violations on a single occurrence to have their name and photo  
5 posted on social media or internet based platforms.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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