

2024 -- H 7639

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS --
ANIMALS AS SENTIENT BEINGS ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Edwards, Diaz, McNamara, Cotter, Serpa,
Shanley, Slater, Solomon, and Casimiro

Date Introduced: February 15, 2024

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 **4-1-44. Animals recognized as sentient beings.**

4 (a) Animals shall be recognized as sentient beings for all purposes enumerated in title 4.

5 (b) All reasonable actions shall be taken to prevent unnecessary pain, stress or fear by
6 animals in violation of the provisions of title 4, and to provide for the humane, ethical and
7 responsible treatment of animals.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS --
ANIMALS AS SENTIENT BEINGS ACT

- 1 This act would classify animals as sentient beings, not property, capable of experiencing
- 2 pain, stress, and fear.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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