

2011 -- S 0458

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LC00423
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Perry, Tassoni, and Miller

Date Introduced: March 10, 2011

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

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 **4-1-6.1. Operating upon tails of cattle prohibited. -- (a) Any person who cuts the bone,**
4 **tissues, muscles or tendons of the tail of any cattle or otherwise operates upon it in any manner**
5 **for the purpose or with the effect of docking, setting, or otherwise altering the natural carriage of**
6 **the tail, or who knowingly permits the same to be done upon premises of which he/she is the**
7 **owner, lessee, proprietor or user, or who assists in or is voluntarily present at such cutting, is**
8 **guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by a fine of**
9 **not more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or both. If a cow is found with the bone, tissues,**
10 **muscles or tendons of its tail cut as aforesaid and with the wound resulting therefrom unhealed,**
11 **upon the premises or in the charge and custody of any person, such fact shall be prima facie**
12 **evidence of a violation of this section by the owner or user of such premises or the person having**
13 **such charge or custody, respectively.**

14 **(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to tail docking**
15 **performed during an individual treatment, emergency, or operation, if the treatment or operation**
16 **is performed by a veterinarian for veterinary purposes, provided that the treatment or operation is**
17 **performed under the following conditions:**

18 **(1) The animal has been adequately anesthetized to minimize the animal's pain and**
19 **suffering during the treatment or operation.**

- 1 (2) In such a way as to minimize the long-term pain and suffering resulting from the
- 2 treatment or operation.
- 3 (3) Using only suitable instruments.
- 4 (4) In hygienic conditions.
- 5 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

- 1 This act would prohibit the docking of the tails of cattle except under certain conditions.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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