

2024 -- H 7562 SUBSTITUTE A

LC004675/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- FURBEARING ANIMALS

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Marszalkowski, Bennett, Kazarian, Craven,  
Caldwell, Cotter, Chippendale, Spears, and Costantino  
Date Introduced: February 09, 2024

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **20-16-1. Furbearers protected.**

4 (a) No person shall hunt, pursue, shoot, or trap, or attempt so to do, the following furbearing  
5 mammals in this state, except in accordance with rules and regulations governing seasons, bag  
6 limits, and methods of taking adopted by the director pursuant to § 20-1-12.

7 (b) For the purposes of this chapter, "furbearers" shall be considered to include:

8 (1) Carnivores (Order *Carnivora*):

9 (i) Family *Canidae*, genus *Canis* (coyote); genus *Urocyon* (gray fox); genus *Vulpes* (red  
10 fox).

11 (ii) Family *Procyonidae*, genus *Procyon* (raccoon).

12 (iii) Family *Mustelidae*, genus *Martes* (fisher); genus *Mustela*, *M. erminea* (ermine), *M.*  
13 *frenata* (longtailed weasel), *M. vison* (mink), genus *Mephitis* (striped skunk), genus *Lutra* (river  
14 otter).

15 (iv) Family *Felidae*, genus *Lynx* (bobcat).

16 (2) Rodents (Order *Rodentia*):

17 (i) Family *Castoridae*, genus *Castor* (beaver).

18 (ii) Family *Sciuridae*, genus *Sciurus* (gray squirrel).

19 (iii) Family *Cricetidae*, genus *Ondatra* (muskrat).

1 (3) Marsupials (Order *Marsupialia*): Family *Didelphidae*, genus *Didelphis* (opossum).

2 (4) Rabbits and hares (Order *Lagomorpha*): Family *Leporidae*, genus *Sylvilagus* (Eastern  
3 and New England cottontail), genus *Lepus* (snowshoe hare).

4 (c) The department of environmental management shall promulgate, by rule, a list of  
5 "furbearers" for the purpose of this chapter.

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

8 **20-16-1. Furbearers protected.**

9 (a) No person shall hunt, pursue, shoot, or trap, or attempt so to do, the following furbearing  
10 mammals in this state, except in accordance with rules and regulations governing seasons, bag  
11 limits, and methods of taking adopted by the director pursuant to § 20-1-12.

12 (b) ~~For the purposes of this chapter, "furbearers" shall be considered to include:~~

13 ~~(1) Carnivores (Order *Carnivora*):~~

14 ~~(i) Family *Canidae*, genus *Canis* (coyote); genus *Urocyon* (gray fox); genus *Vulpes* (red~~  
15 ~~fox).~~

16 ~~(ii) Family *Procyonidae*, genus *Procyon* (raccoon).~~

17 ~~(iii) Family *Mustelidae*, genus *Martes* (fisher); genus *Mustela*, *M. erminea* (ermine), *M.*  
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19 ~~otter).~~~~

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21 ~~(2) Rodents (Order *Rodentia*):~~

22 ~~(i) Family *Castoridae*, genus *Castor* (beaver).~~

23 ~~(ii) Family *Sciuridae*, genus *Sciurus* (gray squirrel).~~

24 ~~(iii) Family *Cricetidae*, genus *Ondatra* (muskrat).~~

25 ~~(3) Marsupials (Order *Marsupialia*): Family *Didelphidae*, genus *Didelphis* (opossum).~~

26 ~~(4) Rabbits and hares (Order *Lagomorpha*): Family *Leporidae*, genus *Sylvilagus* (Eastern~~  
27 ~~and New England cottontail), genus *Lepus* (snowshoe hare).~~

28 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this act shall take effect upon passage, and Section 2 of this act  
29 shall take effect on January 15, 2025.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- FURBEARING ANIMALS

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- 1           This act would require the department of environmental management to promulgate by
- 2 rule, a list of "furbearers" for purposes of the furbearing animals chapter of the general laws.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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