

LC002938

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025**

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- FORCE-FED POULTRY PRODUCTS

Referred To: House Corporations

(a) A person shall not engage in force-feeding to create a force-fed poultry product nor hire

1 another to engage in force-feeding to create a force-fed poultry product.

2 (b) A person shall not sell in Rhode Island by any means, including, but not limited to,  
3 direct, telephone, electronic or Internet sales, any force-fed poultry product or food containing a  
4 force-fed poultry product. For purposes of this chapter, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that  
5 an item that is in any way identified or labeled as "foie gras", or listed on a menu as "foie gras", is  
6 a force-fed poultry product. Any party seeking to rebut such presumption shall provide  
7 documentary evidence proving that the product they are storing, keeping, maintaining, offering for  
8 sale, or selling is not a force-fed poultry product as defined in this chapter.

9 **21-13.1-4. Enforcement.**

10 (a) Any person who is found to violate any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a  
11 civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500) for each violation. Each such violation may be treated  
12 as a separate and distinct offense, and in the case of a continuing violation, each day's continuance  
13 thereof may be treated as a separate and distinct offense.

14 (b) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter may be prosecuted by the city  
15 or town where the violation occurs, or by the state department of health, and the municipality or  
16 department of health, after deducting the costs of trial and conviction, may retain the balance of the  
17 fine or fines recovered for the use of the municipality or department.

18 (c) A peace officer, officer of an animal control or animal regulation department of a public  
19 agency, may issue a citation to a person who violates this chapter.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- FORCE-FED POULTRY PRODUCTS

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1           This act would prohibit force-feeding to create a force-fed poultry product or the hiring of  
2 another to engage in force-feeding of a poultry product. The act would prohibit the sale of a force-  
3 fed poultry product or food containing a force-fed poultry product. Any violations would be subject  
4 to a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500) per violation.  
5           This act would take effect on January 1, 2026.

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