

2025 -- S 0559 SUBSTITUTE A

LC001233/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Introduced By: Senators Dimitri, Appollonio, Tikoian, Bissaillon, Patalano, Ciccone,  
Burke, Murray, Urso, and Vargas  
Date Introduced: February 26, 2025  
Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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- SECTION 1. Section 4-1-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-1 entitled "Cruelty to Animals" is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 4-1-9. Animal fighting.**
- Any person who causes or encourages the fighting of any bird, dog, or animal with any other bird, dog, or animal, or keeps or maintains any place for the fighting of birds, dogs, or animals, or who knowingly permits, or suffers, any fight to be had on his or her premises or on premises under his or her control, or makes any bet or lays any wager of any kind upon the result of that fight, shall be fined not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or be imprisoned not exceeding two (2) years, or both, for the first offense, and for [a second and](#) any subsequent offense shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or be imprisoned not exceeding ~~two (2)~~ [five \(5\)](#) years, or both. [In addition, every person convicted of a first offense shall be required to perform twenty \(20\) hours of community service. Every person convicted of a subsequent offense shall be required to perform fifty \(50\) hours of community service. The community service penalty shall not be suspended or deferred.](#)
- 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 increase the imprisonment penalty for animal fighting from two (2) to five  
2   (5) years for a subsequent conviction under § 4-1-9 and would also require mandatory community  
3   service.  
4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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