It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 4 of the General Laws entitled “ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

CHAPTER 1.1

UNLAWFUL CONFINEMENT OF A COVERED ANIMAL

4-1.1-1. Definitions. – For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) “Calf raised for veal” means a calf of the bovine species kept for the purpose of producing the food product referred to as veal.

(2) “Crate” means a “gestation crate” for sows or a “veal crate” for calves.

(3) “Farm” means the land, building, support facilities, and other equipment that are wholly or partially used for the commercial production of animals or animal products used for food or fiber; and does not include live animal markets.

(4) “Farm owner or operator” means any person who owns or controls the operation of a farm, and does not include any non-management employee, contractor, or consultant.

(5) “Fully extending the animal’s limbs” means fully extending all limbs without touching the side of an enclosure.

(6) “Person” means any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, limited liability company, corporation, estate, trust, receiver, or syndicate.

(7) “Sow during gestation” means a pregnant pig of the porcine species kept for the
purpose of breeding.

(8) “Turning around freely” means turning in a complete circle without any impediment including a tether, and without touching the side of a crate.

4-1.1-2. Purpose. – The purpose of this chapter, subject to exceptions set forth in section 4-1.1-4, is to prohibit the confinement of calves raised for veal and sows during gestation.

4-1.1-3. Unlawful confinement. -- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person is guilty of unlawful confinement of a sow or calf if the person is a farm owner or operator who knowingly tethers or confines any sow or calf in a manner that prevents such animal from turning around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending the animal’s limbs.

4-1.1-4. Exceptions. -- This section shall not apply:

(1) During medical research.

(2) Temporary confinement prior to and during examination, testing, individual treatment or operation for veterinary purposes.

(3) During transportation.

(4) During rodeo exhibitions, state or county fair exhibitions, 4-H programs, and similar exhibitions or educational programs.

(5) During temporary confinement for animal husbandry purposes for no more than six hours in any twenty-four (24) hour period unless ordered by a licensed veterinarian.

(6) During the humane slaughter of a sow or pig accordance with the provisions of chapter 4-17, and other applicable laws and regulations.

(7) To a sow during the fourteen (14) day period prior to the sow’s expected date of giving birth and extending for a duration of time until the piglets are weaned. This period may be modified upon the order of a licensed veterinarian.

(8) To calves being trained to exhibit.

(9) To calves being trained to accept routine confinement in dairy and beef housing.

4-1.1-5. Penalty. -- (a) The provisions of this chapter are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other laws protecting animal welfare. This chapter may not be construed to limit any other state laws or rules protecting the welfare of animals or to prevent a local governing body from adopting and enforcing its own animal welfare laws and regulations.

(b) It is not an affirmative defense to alleged violations of this chapter that the calf or sow was kept as part of an agricultural operation and in accordance with customary animal husbandry or farming practices.

(c) Any person who violates the provisions of this chapter or any rules or regulations promulgated hereunder shall be fined not less than fifty dollars ($50.00) nor exceeding five
hundred dollars ($500), or both.

4.1.1-6. Severability. – If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any
person or circumstances, is held invalid or unconstitutional, that invalidity or unconstitutionality
shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter that can be given effect without the
invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter
are declared to be severable.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect one year after its passage.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
AN ACT
RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- UNLAWFUL CONFINEMENT
OF A COVERED ANIMAL

***

1 This act would prohibit the unlawful confinement of calves raised for veal or sows during
2 gestation.
3 This act would take effect one year after its passage.

=====
LC00826/SUB A
=====