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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMAL ABUSE -- OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND COMMUNITY
NOTIFICATION

Introduced By: Representatives Canario, Edwards, Gallison, Finn, and Marshall

Date Introduced: January 08, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 CHAPTER 1.2

4 ANIMAL ABUSER REGISTRY

5 **4-1.2-1. Definitions.** -- For purposes of this chapter, an "animal abuser" means a person
6 over eighteen (18) years of age who has been convicted of a felony violation of any Rhode Island
7 animal protection law or of any comparable statutes of another state.

8 **4-1.2-2. Offender registry.** -- (a) Any convicted animal abuser physically within the
9 boundaries of Rhode Island for more than ten (10) consecutive days shall register with the police
10 department of the city or town in which the animal abuser is located, before the end of the
11 eleventh day in Rhode Island.

12 (b) Any previously-registered animal abuser shall reregister with the police department of
13 the city or town in which the animal abuser is located, no later than ten (10) days after moving to
14 a new location within Rhode Island.

15 **4-1.2-3. Registrant information.** -- (a) When an animal abuser registers with his or her
16 local police department, the animal abuser shall provide the following registration information:

17 (1) His or Her legal name and any other names or aliases that he or she is using or has
18 used;

- 1 (2) His or Her date of birth;
- 2 (3) His or Her social security number;
- 3 (4) His or Her current address or location;
- 4 (5) His or Her place of employment;
- 5 (6) The animal protection offense for which the he or she was convicted; and the date and
- 6 place of his or her conviction.

7 (b) When an animal abuser registers with his or her police department, the department
8 shall obtain from him or her:

- 9 (1) A photograph and a complete set of fingerprints; and
- 10 (2) A description of any tattoos, scars or other distinguishing features that would assist in
- 11 identifying the individual.

12 **4-1.2-4. Registration frequency and duration.** -- Following an individual's initial
13 registration pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, the individual shall annually renew his or
14 her registration with their police department, prior to December 31 of each subsequent calendar
15 year for a period of fifteen (15) years.

16 **4-1.2-5. Community notification.** -- Each police department shall maintain a local
17 registry of animal abusers in the department's jurisdiction required to register pursuant to this
18 chapter.

19 (1) The police department shall forward all registration information obtained from animal
20 abusers to the state attorney general.

21 (2) Within ten (10) days of receiving initial registration information from an animal
22 abuser, the police department shall contact every residence, school, humane society, animal
23 shelter and any other business within a half (½) mile radius of the individual's residence or
24 location and provide them with the individual's identity and registration information, with the
25 exception of the individual's social security number.

26 **4-1.2-6. State central registry.** -- The state attorney general shall maintain a central
27 registry of animal abusers required to register pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. The
28 central registry of animal abusers shall be made available to the public through internet access,
29 telephone access, written access and in-person access. All of the information contained in the
30 registration, with the exception of the individual social security numbers, shall be made available.
31 Records of each animal abuser's registration shall be maintained for the duration of the fifteen
32 (15) year period the individual is required to register.

33 **4-1.2-7. Penalty.** -- An animal abuser who intentionally or knowingly fails to comply
34 with the registration requirements, or provides false information when complying with the

1 registration requirement set forth in this chapter, shall be imprisoned not exceeding two (2) years
2 or be fined not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000). In addition any person convicted under
3 this chapter is required to serve ten (10) hours of community restitution which may not be
4 suspended or deferred and is mandatory.

5 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 require persons who have been convicted of felony animal abuse to
2 annually register with his or her local police department for fifteen (15) years. It would require
3 the local police department to provide public notification of the animal abuser's identity,
4 registration and personal information.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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