

2014 -- H 7234

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Shekarchi, Walsh, Handy, and Fellela

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2-23-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 2-23 entitled "Right to
2 Farm" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **2-23-4. "Agricultural operations" defined.** -- (a) As used in this chapter, "agricultural
4 operations" includes any commercial enterprise ~~which~~ that has as its primary purpose
5 horticulture, viticulture, viniculture, floriculture, forestry, stabling of horses, dairy farming, or
6 aquaculture, or the raising of livestock, including for the production of fiber, furbearing animals,
7 poultry, or bees, and all such other operations, uses, and activities as the director, in consultation
8 with the chief of division of agriculture, may determine to be agriculture, or an agricultural
9 activity, use or operation. The mixed-use of farms and farmlands for other forms of enterprise
10 including, but not limited to, the display of antique vehicles and equipment, retail sales, tours,
11 classes, petting, feeding and viewing of animals, hay rides, crop mazes, festivals and other special
12 events are ~~is~~ hereby recognized as a valuable and viable means of contributing to the preservation
13 of agriculture.

14 (b) Nothing herein shall be deemed to restrict, limit, or prohibit nonagricultural
15 operations from being undertaken on a farm except as otherwise restricted, regulated, limited, or
16 prohibited by law, regulation, or ordinance or to affect the rights of persons to engage in other
17 lawful nonagricultural enterprises on farms; provided, however, that the protections and rights
18 established by this chapter shall not apply to such nonagricultural activities, uses or operations.

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1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

- 1 This act would define various farm enterprise uses that are recognized as a valuable and
- 2 viable means of contributing to the preservation of agricultural operations.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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