

2014 -- S 2138

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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 ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL ABUSER REGISTRY

Introduced By: Senator William A. Walaska

Date Introduced: January 29, 2014

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-1 of the General Laws entitled "Cruelty to Animals" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-1-42. Animal abuse registry.** – (a) For purposes of this section, an "animal abuser"  
4 means a person over eighteen (18) years of age who has been convicted of an offense defined as a  
5 felony in this chapter or in the comparable laws of another state.

6 (b) Any animal abuser physically within the boundaries of this state for more than ten  
7 (10) consecutive days shall register with the chief of police of the city or town in which the  
8 animal abuser is located before the end of the eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) day in the state.

9 (c) Any previously-registered animal abuser shall reregister with the chief of police of the  
10 city or town in which the animal abuser is located no later than ten (10) days after moving to a  
11 new location within the state.

12 (d) The animal abuser shall provide the following registration information:

13 (1) Their legal name and any other names or aliases they are using or have used;

14 (2) Their date of birth;

15 (3) Their social security number;

16 (4) Their current address or location;

17 (5) Their place of employment;

18 (6) The animal protection offense for which they were convicted; and

19 (7) The date and place of their conviction.

1 (e) When an animal abuser registers, the chief of police shall obtain from them:  
2 (1) A photograph and a complete set of fingerprints; and  
3 (2) A description of any tattoos, scars or other distinguishing features that would assist in  
4 identifying the individual.

5 (f) Following an individual's initial registration pursuant to the provisions of this section,  
6 the individual shall annually renew the animal abuser's registration with the chief of police prior  
7 to December 31 of each subsequent calendar year for a period of fifteen (15) years.

8 (g) An animal abuser who intentionally or knowingly fails to comply with the registration  
9 requirements, or provides false information when complying with the registration requirements  
10 set forth in this section, is guilty of a felony and shall be fined not exceeding one thousand five  
11 hundred dollars (\$1,500) or imprisoned not more than two (2) years, or both.

12 (h) Each chief of police shall maintain a local registry of animal abusers in the chief of  
13 police's jurisdiction required to register pursuant to this section.

14 (1) The chief of police shall forward all registration information obtained from animal  
15 abusers to the attorney general.

16 (2) Within ten (10) days of receiving initial registration information from an animal  
17 abuser, the chief of police shall contact every residence, school, humane society, animal shelter  
18 and any other business within a half (1/2) mile radius of the individual's residence or location, and  
19 provide them with the individual's identity and registration information, with the exception of the  
20 individual's social security number.

21 (i) The attorney general shall maintain a central registry of animal abusers required to  
22 register pursuant to the provisions of this section. The central registry of animal abusers shall be  
23 made available to the public through internet access, telephone access, written access and in-  
24 person access. All of the information contained in the registration, with the exception of  
25 individual social security numbers, shall be made available. Records of each individual  
26 registration shall be maintained for the duration of the fifteen (15) year period in which the  
27 animal abuser is required to be registered.

28 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 create an animal abuser registry and would provide for penalties for  
2 failure to register.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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