

2015 -- H 6100

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY - RIGHT TO FARM

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Shekarchi, Bennett, Keable, and Solomon

Date Introduced: April 17, 2015

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 that has as its primary purpose horticulture,
5 viticulture, viniculture, floriculture, forestry, stabling of horses, dairy farming, or aquaculture, or
6 the raising of livestock, including for the production of fiber, furbearing animals, poultry, or bees,
7 and all such other operations, uses, and activities as the director, in consultation with the chief of
8 division of agriculture, may determine to be agriculture, or an agricultural activity, use or
9 operation. The mixed-use of farms and farmlands for other forms of enterprise including, but not
10 limited to, the display of antique vehicles and equipment, retail sales, tours, classes, petting,
11 feeding and viewing of animals, hay rides, crop mazes, festivals, [weddings](#) and other special
12 events are hereby recognized as a valuable and viable means of contributing to the preservation of
13 agriculture [which uses shall not be restricted by the cities or towns](#).

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.~~

1 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 add weddings to the list of non-agriculture farm uses protected as "mixed
2 use operations" and extends the protection against nuisance complaints contained in chapter 23 of
3 title 2 to those activities.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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