

2016 -- H 8197

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LC005930
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, O'Brien, Shekarchi, Canario, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: May 11, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

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 **4-1-43. Use of bullhooks or similar devices on elephants prohibited. – (a)**

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person who houses, possesses, or is in direct
5 contact with an elephant utilized in a traveling show shall not:

6 (1) Use a bullhook, ankus, baseball bat, axe handle, pitchfork, or similar device designed
7 to inflict pain for the purpose of training or controlling the behavior of an elephant; or

8 (2) Permit an employee, agent, or contractor to use a bullhook, ankus, baseball bat, axe
9 handle, pitchfork, or similar device designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training or
10 controlling the behavior of an elephant.

11 (b) For purposes of this section "traveling show" means a circus, public show, trade
12 show, photographic opportunity, carnival, city or county fair, ride, parade, race, performance or
13 similar undertaking that involves transporting elephants from location to location or otherwise
14 moves elephants away from a place of permanent residency for performance purposes. The term
15 "traveling show" does not include the transportation of an elephant between nonprofit United
16 States Department of Agriculture licensed sanctuaries for the purpose of providing lifetime care.

17 (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than
18 five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or by both
19 such fine and imprisonment.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2017.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

1 This act would prohibit the use of bullhooks or similar devices designed to inflict pain for
2 the purpose of training or controlling the behavior of elephants utilized in traveling shows.

3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2017.

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