

2016 -- S 2658

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LC004512  
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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: Senators Ruggerio, Archambault, Nesselbush, Lombardi, and Conley

Date Introduced: February 25, 2016

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4-1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-1 entitled "Cruelty to  
2 Animals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **4-1-5. Malicious injury to or killing of animals.** -- (a) Every person who cuts out the  
4 tongue or otherwise dismembers any animal, maliciously, or maliciously kills or wounds any  
5 animal, or maliciously administers poison to or exposes any poisonous substance with intent that  
6 the poison shall be taken or swallowed by any animal, or who maliciously exposes poisoned meat  
7 with intent that the poison meat is taken or swallowed by any wild animal, shall be imprisoned  
8 not exceeding ~~two (2)~~ five (5) years or be fined not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), and  
9 shall, in the case of any animal of another, be liable to the owner of this animal for triple  
10 damages, to be recovered by civil action. In addition, any person convicted under this section is  
11 required to serve ~~ten (10)~~ fifty (50) hours of community restitution. The community restitution  
12 penalty shall not be suspended or deferred and is mandatory.

13 (b) This section shall not apply to licensed hunters during hunting season or a licensed  
14 business killing animals for human consumption.

15 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 increase the penalty for cruelty to animals, the malicious injury or killing  
2 of animals, from not more than two (2) years to not more than five (5) years, and would increase  
3 the mandatory community service from ten (10) hours to fifty (50) hours.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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