

2018 -- H 7641 AS AMENDED

=====  
LC004790  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Corvese, O'Brien, Serpa, and Winfield

Date Introduced: February 15, 2018

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-13 of the General Laws entitled "Dogs" is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-13-44. Minimum maturity level for sale of dogs.**

4 (a) Except as otherwise authorized under any other provision of law, it shall be a crime,  
5 punishable as specified in subsection (c) of this section, for any person to sell or transfer (as  
6 further described within subsection (b) of this section) one or more dogs that are not fully weaned  
7 unless, prior to any physical transfer of the dog or dogs from the seller/transferor to the  
8 purchaser/transferee, the dog or dogs are approved for sale, as evidenced by written  
9 documentation from a veterinarian licensed to practice in Rhode Island.

10 (b) For the purposes of this section, the sale or transfer of a dog or dogs shall not be  
11 considered complete, and thereby subject to the requirements and penalties of this section, unless  
12 and until the seller/transferor physically transfers the dog or dogs to the purchaser/transferee.

13 (c) Any person who violates this section shall be subject to imprisonment not to exceed  
14 twelve (12) months or a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.

15 (d) With respect to the sale of two (2) or more dogs in violation of this section, each dog  
16 unlawfully sold or transferred shall represent a separate offense.

17 (e) This section shall not apply in instances where the following types of organizations  
18 place a dog into "foster care" pursuant to their respective current practices of operation:

19 (1) An organization, as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or

1 [animal shelter, as defined in § 4-19-2; and](#)

2 [\(2\) A pound or dog pound as defined in § 4-19-2.](#)

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

=====  
LC004790  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

\*\*\*

1           This act would prohibit the sale of dogs under eight (8) weeks of age unless approval for  
2 sale in writing from a licensed Rhode Island veterinarian with violations subject to imprisonment  
3 not to exceed twelve (12) months or one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both. Dog pounds and  
4 animal shelters would be exempt.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC004790  
=====