

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- FURBEARING ANIMALS

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Chippendale, Corvese, and Casey

Date Introduced: February 21, 2023

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 20-16-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-16 entitled "Furbearing
2 Animals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **20-16-1. Furbearers protected.**

4 (a) No person shall hunt, pursue, shoot, or trap, or attempt so to do, the following furbearing
5 mammals in this state, except in accordance with rules and regulations governing seasons, bag
6 limits, and methods of taking adopted by the director pursuant to § 20-1-12.

7 (b) For the purposes of this chapter, "furbearers" shall be considered to include:

8 (1) Carnivores (Order *Carnivora*):

9 (i) Family *Canidae*, genus *Canis* (coyote); genus *Urocyon* (gray fox); genus *Vulpes* (red
10 fox).

11 (ii) Family *Procyonidae*, genus *Procyon* (raccoon).

12 (iii) Family *Mustelidae*, genus *Martes* (fisher); genus *Mustela*, *M. erminea* (~~ermine~~)(short-
13 tailed weasel), *M. frenata* (longtailed weasel), ~~M.~~ genus *Neovision*, *N.*, *vison* (mink), ~~genus~~
14 ~~*Mephitis* (striped skunk), genus *Lutra*~~ genus *Lontra* (river otter).

15 (iv) Family *Mephitidae*, genus *Mephitis* (striped skunk).

16 (~~iv~~)(v) Family *Felidae*, genus *Lynx* (bobcat).

17 (vi) Family *Ursidae*, genus *Ursus* (black bear).

18 (2) Rodents (Order *Rodentia*):

19 (i) Family *Castoridae*, genus *Castor* (beaver).

- 1 (ii) Family *Sciuridae*, genus *Sciurus* (gray squirrel), [genus *tamiascirus* \(red squirrel\)](#).
- 2 (iii) Family *Cricetidae*, genus *Ondatra* (muskrat).
- 3 [\(iv\) Family *Erethizontidae*, genus *Erethizon* \(porcupine\)](#).
- 4 (3) Marsupials (Order *Marsupialia*): Family *Didelphidae*, genus *Didelphis* (opossum).
- 5 (4) Rabbits and hares (Order *Lagomorpha*): Family *Leporidae*, genus *Sylvilagus* (Eastern
- 6 and New England cottontail), genus *Lepus* (snowshoe hare).
- 7 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 additional species to the prohibition of hunting, shooting or trapping
2 except in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the department of environmental
3 management governing hunting seasons and limits.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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