

2024 -- S 2398

LC004029

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE

Introduced By: Senators Burke, Tikoian, LaMountain, McKenney, Gallo, and F. Lombardi

Date Introduced: February 12, 2024

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-19 of the General Laws entitled "Animal Care" is hereby amended
2 by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-19-11.4. Use of animals in medical training.**

4 (a) An educational program training individuals in the medical treatment of human beings
5 shall not use a live animal in the education or training of students, residents, or physicians if:

6 (1) At least one other accredited training program in the state in the same medical discipline
7 does not use live animals; or

8 (2) There is an alternate teaching method that teaches the medical procedure or lesson
9 without the use of an animal.

10 (b) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,
11 and upon conviction shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each animal
12 used.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would prohibit a medical training program in this state from using a live animal
2 while teaching medical procedures if at least one other accredited training program in the state in
3 the same medical discipline does not use animals, or there is an alternate teaching method that
4 teaches the medical procedure or lesson without the use of an animal. Violations of this act would
5 be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each animal
6 used.

7 This act would take effect on January 1, 2026.

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