

2025 -- H 5606

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- HUNTING AND HUNTING SAFETY--WILDLIFE
KILLING CONTEST

Introduced By: Representatives Kislak, Bennett, Speakman, Boylan, and Spears

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 20-13 of the General Laws entitled "Hunting and Hunting Safety" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **20-13-19. Wildlife killing contest prohibited.**

4 (a) As used in this section, "wildlife killing contest", also referred to as predator hunting
5 contests, challenges, drives, tournaments, or derbies, means a contest, organized competition,
6 tournament, or derby that has as its objective the taking or hunting of any furbearers, as defined by
7 § 20-16-1, on state or private land, for cash, prizes, or other inducement.

8 (b) A person, organization, or business shall not organize, sponsor, promote, conduct, or
9 participate in any wildlife killing contest in this state.

10 (c) The prohibition in subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to:

11 (1) Field trials permitted by the department under §§ 20-19-1 through 20-19-4;

12 (2) Wildlife damage control activities authorized under § 20-1-24, as long as those
13 activities do not take place during a contest, organized competition, tournament, or derby; and

14 (3) Lawful hunting or trapping activities authorized under §§ 20-1-4; 20-1-8; 20-1-12; and
15 20-1-13, as long as those activities do not take place during a contest, organized competition, or
16 derby.

17 (d) A person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than five hundred
18 dollars (\$500) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a first offense. Upon a second

1 and all subsequent convictions related to violations of subsection (b) of this section, or any
2 conviction while their hunting license is suspended, a person who violates this section shall be fined
3 a minimum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

4 (e) An organization or business which violates this section shall be fined not less than one
5 thousand dollars (\$1,000) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a first offense. Upon
6 a second and all subsequent convictions related to violations of subsection (b) of this section an
7 organization or business which violates this section shall be fined not less than five thousand dollars
8 (\$5,000) and not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- HUNTING AND HUNTING SAFETY--WILDLIFE
KILLING CONTEST

1 This act would ban wildlife killing contests on both public and private lands in the state.
2 Penalties for violations for individuals start at five hundred dollars (\$500) and increase for repeat
3 offenders. Penalties for businesses and organizations start at one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and
4 increase for repeat offenders or while under license suspension.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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