

=====
LC002560
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Senators Britto, McKenney, and Appollonio

Date Introduced: March 21, 2025

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

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.

=====
LC002560
=====

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.

=====
LC002560
=====