

2018 -- H 7248

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LC003036
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- WILDCATS AND HYBRID
CATS

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Bennett, Serpa, Ackerman, and Solomon

Date Introduced: January 19, 2018

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-18 of the General Laws entitled "Importation of Wild Animals"

2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-18-3.1. Wild and hybrid cats.**

4 (a) No person shall import into, receive, breed or possess any wildcat or hybrid cat
5 without first obtaining a permit from the department of environmental management pursuant to
6 §4-18-3.

7 (b) "Hybrid cat" shall mean any cat which possesses combined lineage from domestic
8 cats (Felis domesticus) and from any wildcat (Felis silvestris). "Wildcats" shall include, but not
9 be limited to: Felis silvestris lybica; Felis silvestris ornata; Felis silvestris cafra; Felis silvestris
10 silvestris; and Felis silvestris bieti.

11 (c) Hybrid cat breeds shall include, but not be limited to: Savannah; Bengal; Toyger;
12 Chausie; Cheetoh; Jungle Lynx; Serengeti; and Pixiebob.

13 (d) Any animal care facility accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
14 shall be exempt from this provision; provided, however, the facility shall provide the state
15 veterinarian with a quarterly summary of any and all animal acquisitions and dispositions.

16 (e) Violations of this section shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred
17 dollars (\$500) or imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days.

1 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 ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- WILDCATS AND HYBRID
CATS

1 This act would prohibit possession or breeding of wildcats or hybrid cats without a permit
2 from the department of environmental management. The act would also exempt facilities
3 accredited by Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Violators would be subject to a five
4 hundred dollar (\$500) fine or ninety (90) days imprisonment.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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