

2024 -- S 2297

LC004826

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- FURBEARING ANIMALS

Introduced By: Senators Tikoian, Raptakis, Quezada, Ciccone, F. Lombardi, Britto, Sosnowski, Burke, McKenney, and Rogers

Date Introduced: February 12, 2024

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

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*  
10 ~~(red fox).~~~~

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

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

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

16 ~~(2) Rodents (Order *Rodentia*):~~

17 ~~(i) Family *Castoridae*, genus *Castor* (beaver).~~

18 ~~(ii) Family *Sciuridae*, genus *Sciurus* (gray squirrel).~~

19 ~~(iii) Family *Cricetidae*, genus *Ondatra* (muskrat).~~

1           ~~(3) Marsupials (Order *Marsupialia*): Family *Didelphidae*, genus *Didelphis* (opossum).~~  
2           ~~(4) Rabbits and hares (Order *Lagomorpha*): Family *Leporidae*, genus *Sylvilagus*~~  
3           ~~(Eastern and New England cottontail), genus *Lepus* (snowshoe hare).~~

4           (b) The department of environmental management shall promulgate, by rule, a list of  
5           "furbearers" for the purpose of this chapter.

6           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 delete subsection (b) of this section which lists the furbearing mammals in
- 2 the state. It would require the DEM to promulgate by rule, a list of "furbearers" for this chapter.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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