

2024 -- S 2297 AS AMENDED

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* (red
10 fox).

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

12 (iii) Family *Mustelidae*, genus *Martes* (fisher); genus *Mustela*, *M. erminea* (ermine), *M.*
13 *frenata* (longtailed weasel), *M. vison* (mink), genus *Mephitis* (striped skunk), genus *Lutra* (river
14 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* (Eastern
3 and New England cottontail), genus *Lepus* (snowshoe hare).

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

6 SECTION 2. Section 20-16-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-16 entitled "Furbearing
7 Animals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 **20-16-1. Furbearers protected.**

9 (a) No person shall hunt, pursue, shoot, or trap, or attempt so to do, the following furbearing
10 mammals in this state, except in accordance with rules and regulations governing seasons, bag
11 limits, and methods of taking adopted by the director pursuant to § 20-1-12.

12 (b) ~~For the purposes of this chapter, "furbearers" shall be considered to include:~~

13 ~~(1) Carnivores (Order *Carnivora*):~~

14 ~~(i) Family *Canidae*, genus *Canis* (coyote); genus *Urocyon* (gray fox); genus *Vulpes* (red~~
15 ~~fox).~~

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

17 ~~(iii) Family *Mustelidae*, genus *Martes* (fisher); genus *Mustela*, *M. erminea* (ermine), *M.*
18 ~~*frenata* (longtailed weasel), *M. vison* (mink), genus *Mephitis* (striped skunk), genus *Lutra* (river~~
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21 ~~(2) Rodents (Order *Rodentia*):~~

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

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

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

25 ~~(3) Marsupials (Order *Marsupialia*): Family *Didelphidae*, genus *Didelphis* (opossum).~~

26 ~~(4) Rabbits and hares (Order *Lagomorpha*): Family *Leporidae*, genus *Sylvilagus* (Eastern~~
27 ~~and New England cottontail), genus *Lepus* (snowshoe hare).~~

28 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this act shall take effect upon passage, and Section 2 of this act
29 shall take effect on January 15, 2025.

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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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