

2018 -- S 2777 SUBSTITUTE A

LC004845/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

Introduced By: Senator Frank S. Lombardi

Date Introduced: April 05, 2018

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-13 of the General Laws entitled "Dogs" is hereby amended by
2 adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-13-44. Minimum maturity level for sale of dogs.**

4 (a) Except as otherwise authorized under any other provision of law, it shall be a crime,
5 punishable as specified in subsection (c) of this section, for any person to sell or transfer (as
6 further described within subsection (b) of this section) one or more dogs that are not fully
7 weaned, unless, prior to any physical transfer of the dog or dogs from the seller/transferor to the
8 purchaser/transferee, the dog or dogs are approved for sale, as evidenced by written
9 documentation from a veterinarian licensed to practice in Rhode Island.

10 (b) For the purposes of this section, the sale or transfer of a dog or dogs shall not be
11 considered complete, and thereby subject to the requirements and penalties of this section, unless
12 and until the seller/transferor physically transfers the dog or dogs to the purchaser/transferee.

13 (c) Any person who violates this section shall be subject to imprisonment not to exceed
14 twelve (12) months or a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.

15 (d) With respect to the sale of two (2) or more dogs in violation of this section, each dog
16 unlawfully sold or transferred shall represent a separate offense.

17 (e) This section shall not apply in instances where the following types of organizations
18 place a dog into "foster care" pursuant to their respective current practices of operation:

19 (1) An organization, as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or

1 [animal shelter, as defined in § 4-19-2; and](#)

2 [\(2\) A pound or dog pound as defined in § 4-19-2.](#)

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

1 This act would prohibit the sale or transfer of dogs until fully weaned unless approval for
2 sale/transfer in writing is obtained from a licensed Rhode Island veterinarian. Violations are
3 punishable by imprisonment not to exceed twelve (12) months or one thousand dollars (\$1,000),
4 or both. Dog pounds and animal shelters would be exempt.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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