

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In favor of H-5128

March 3, 2025

House Judiciary Members

RI State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

Dear House Judiciary Members:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and board members, I am respectfully requesting that you vote in favor of House Bill No. H-5128 introduced by Representative Bennett and cosponsored by Representatives Potter, Edwards, Spears, McGaw, Solomon, Giraldo, O'Brien, Noret, and McEntee That would make any offense under this statute that could result in the death of an animal punishable by up to 3 years in prison, a fine of at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or both, for each offense.

Rhode Island still has demonstrated that there still remains a serious threat to animals and the penalties in the death of an animal should be increased.

Please consider having this proposed legislation passed to the full House for a vote.

Very sincerely yours,

Dennis Tabella

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Director