



WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND D.B.A. WILDLIFE CLINIC OF RHODE ISLAND

Date: March 11, 2025

House Bill 5704

Health and Safety - Pesticide Control

Referred to RI House Municipal Government and Housing Committee

Precludes the use of first and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide products except in certain circumstance, and establishes the parameters of a integrated pest management pilot program.

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Submitted by:

Arianna Mouradjian, Operations Director, and Dr. Blaine Hymel, DVM, Chief Veterinarian,  
both on behalf of WRARI and the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island.

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

We submit this testimony in support of House Bill 5704 which precludes the use of first and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide products (SGARs) and establishes a fund to promote, and the parameters for, an integrated pest management pilot program.

We strongly oppose the use of SGARs and second the testimony, written and oral, submitted by ASRI to which we add the following points:

1. The means by which SGARs cause mortality are not painless and cause a delayed death, with many animals suffering for weeks or even months. Both intended targets and those non-target victims may experience combination of symptoms including: external hemorrhage (bleeding from the nose, eyes, mouth, or wounds), internal bleeding into body cavities, and/or anemia resulting in lethargy, profound weakness, and difficulty breathing (hypoxia).
2. The only safe way to dispose of SGARs is by specific methods of incineration which makes proper disposal difficult and increases the likelihood of unintended poisoning of non-targets.
3. The perpetuation of nuisance rodent populations in areas where SGARs are used extensively stands for the proposition that these products are not a truly effective means at eliminating rodent problems. Alternative solutions, utilizing integrated pest management methodology, have been found to be safe and at least as effective as the use of SGARs to control rodent populations.
4. Ongoing studies have preliminarily shown a causal link between the use of SGARs, increased incidence of infectious disease, and the proliferation of mange in species like red and grey foxes, further impacting the survival rates of these species (Carrera and Navas 2024).
5. It has been shown that rats exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides were more likely to harbor zoonotic diseases such as leptospirosis when compared to healthy rats (Murray MH, 2021). This disease is a significant concern to not only our domestic pets, but for public health as leptospirosis infection can result in meningitis, liver failure, kidney damage, respiratory distress, and even death (CDC). Leptospirosis is prevalent in the New England area. In addition to leptospirosis, rodents can transmit over 40 zoonotic diseases to humans (Buckle and Smith, 2015). Eliminating anticoagulant rodenticides from our environment not only protects our wildlife and pets, but human health as well.

We appreciate the Committee's time and efforts, and encourage you to support this legislation.