



NEW PSITTACINE BIRD LAWS INTRODUCED IN RHODE ISLAND

** ALLOWS FOR TREATMENT OF BIRDS WITH PSITTACOSIS **

The Issue:

A new law has been proposed in Rhode Island pertaining to psittacine birds. Companion bills [SB 2031](#) and [HB 7137](#) would allow psittacine birds to be microchipped instead of fitted with an identifying band, and would permit birds exposed to psittacosis to be treated rather than destroyed.

The Impact:

Current Rhode Island law states that “all psittacine birds imported, purchased, sold, exchanged, bartered, or given away must be closed metal seamless banded with a band identifying the breeder by whom they were bred”. SB 2031 and HB 7137 provide that a microchip may be used in lieu of an identifying band.

This legislation also allows for the treatment of birds infected with psittacosis instead of the current, euthanasia only option. The bills state that “if laboratory examination confirms infection with the agent that causes psittacosis, the remaining birds shall be humanely euthanized OR TREATED according to the most current, "Compendium Of Measures To Control Chlamydothyla Psittaci Infection Among Humans (Psittacosis) And Pet Birds (Avian Chlamydiosis)," as reviewed by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, (NASPHV).” **NOTE:** Such treatment is to be administered at the bird owner's expense.

Recommended Action:

SB 2031 has been sent to the [Senate Environment & Agriculture Committee](#), while HB 7137 is currently in the [House Judiciary Committee](#). Contact members of these committees to express support for these measures. Neither bill has been set for committee hearing yet. Check the [Breaking News page](#) of the PIJAC website frequently for updates on this issue and on other legislation.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact PIJAC's Bambi Nicole Osborne at 202-452-1525, ext. 105 or via email at bambi@pijac.org.