



## RHODE ISLAND TO BAN ALLIGATORS, CROCODILES, PYTHONS AND BOAS

### The Issue.

Senate Bill 2027 would prohibit the ownership of alligators, crocodiles, pythons and boa constrictors in Rhode Island.

### The Impact.

As stated above, this legislation states that “no person shall be permitted to own alligators, crocodiles, pythons and boa constrictors.” Anyone found with ownership of any of these animals would be subject to fines of \$1,000 and up.

The bill **DOES NOT** specify specific species of the listed animal families, but rather makes an across-the-board ban.

### Recommended Action.

Many pet owners and businesses in Rhode Island may be affected by this bill. Both Florida and Georgia have proposed similar legislative ownership restrictions of certain snakes. Also, in 2009, Congress proposed bills in both chambers banning ownership of certain snakes and just this week the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced it will propose to list the Burmese python and eight other large constrictor snakes that threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems as “injurious wildlife” under the Lacey Act. Therefore, it is obvious this type of legislation is becoming a trend all over the country.

SB 2027 has been referred to the Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues Committee. We urge you to contact members of the Committee with your questions and concerns. Contact information for committee members is listed below.

Also, to easily contact both members of the Committee, as well as your own Representative, visit PIJAC’s [Legislative Action Center](http://www.pijac.org/governmentaffairs) on the PIJAC website (<http://www.pijac.org/governmentaffairs>) to learn how.

The text to this legislation is attached to the online version of this *PetAlert*, found on the ‘Breaking News’ page of the PIJAC website (<http://www.pijac.org/petinformation/breakingnews.asp>).

If you have further questions please feel free to contact PIJAC’s Bambi Nicole Osborne by phone at 202-452-1525 or via email at [bambi@pijac.org](mailto:bambi@pijac.org).



**State of Rhode Island  
Senate Committee on Constitutional & Regulatory Issues  
State House, Senate Chamber  
Providence, RI 02903  
401/276-5508**

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**On behalf of pets, responsible pet owners, and the pet industry, we thank you!**

**2009 RI S 2027**    **AUTHOR:**                    Tassoni  
                          **VERSION:**                    Introduced  
                          **VERSION DATE:**        01/13/2010

**2010 -- S 2027**

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010**

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AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- IMPORTATION OF WILD ANIMALS

**Introduced By:** Senators Tassoni, McBurney, and Doyle

**Date Introduced:** January 13, 2010

**Referred To:** Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 4-18-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-18 entitled "Importation of Wild Animals" is hereby amended to read as follows:

**4-18-3. Permit required to import wild animals.** -- (a) No person shall import into, receive, or possess in this state without first obtaining a permit from the department, animals of the following orders, families, and genera: primates, carnivores, amphibia, reptilia, canidae, and insecta. The director may by regulation designate additional orders, families, genera, or species requiring a permit to import, receive or possess; or the director may by regulation waive the permit requirement for specific species, orders, families and genera.

(b) Any animal care facility accredited by the American zoo and aquarium association (AZA) shall be exempt from this provision, provided, however, the facility provides the state veterinarian with a quarterly summary of any and all animal acquisitions and dispositions.

(c) Notwithstanding any provisions of subsections (a) or (b), no person shall be permitted to own any of the following: alligator(s), crocodile(s), python(s), and boa constrictor(s). Ownership shall be punishable by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- IMPORTATION OF WILD ANIMALS \*\*\*

This act would prohibit the ownership of alligators, crocodiles, pythons and boa constrictors. Ownership shall be punishable by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars.

This act would take effect upon passage.