

HOUSE BILL 281

E1
HB 1537/20 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

11r0850
CF SB 159

By: **Delegate Chang**

Requested: October 5, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Humane Society and Animal Control Officers – Education and**
3 **Training Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a certain officer of a humane society and a certain animal
5 control officer to receive certain training within a certain period of time of
6 employment; requiring an officer of a humane society and an animal control officer
7 to complete certain continuing education at a certain time; and generally relating to
8 education and training requirements for humane society and animal control officers.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Criminal Law
11 Section 10–609
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Criminal Law**

17 10–609.

18 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, if an officer of a
19 humane society sees a person committing a misdemeanor that involves cruelty to an
20 animal, the officer shall arrest and bring before the District Court the person committing
21 the misdemeanor.

22 (b) In Calvert County, if an officer of a humane society or an animal control officer
23 appointed by the County Commissioners or the County Commissioners' designee sees a
24 person committing a misdemeanor that involves cruelty to an animal, the officer shall

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 arrest and bring before the District Court the person committing the misdemeanor.

2 (c) In Baltimore County, the Baltimore County Department of Health, Division
3 of Animal Control shall enforce this section.

4 (D) (1) **WITHIN THE FIRST 12 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT, A NEW OFFICER**
5 **OF A HUMANE SOCIETY OR ANIMAL CONTROL SHALL SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE AT**
6 **LEAST 80 HOURS OF TRAINING FOR ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL PROFESSIONALS**
7 **THAT IS APPROVED BY THE APPROPRIATE UNIT OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL**
8 **CORPORATION.**

9 (2) **AN OFFICER OF A HUMANE SOCIETY OR ANIMAL CONTROL SHALL**
10 **SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE AT LEAST 6 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION**
11 **APPROVED BY THE APPROPRIATE UNIT OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**
12 **EVERY YEAR.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2021.