

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 16, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Criminal Law~~ Local Government – **Humane Society and Animal Control Officers**
3 – **Education and 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; requiring certain training
8 and continuing education to include certain instruction; and generally relating to
9 education and training requirements for humane society and animal control officers.

10 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
11 ~~Article – Criminal Law~~
12 ~~Section 10–600~~
13 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
14 ~~(2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Local Government
17 Section 13–110
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2013 Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article - ~~Criminal Law~~ Local Government

2 ~~10-600.~~

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

7 ~~(b) In Calvert County, if an officer of a humane society or an animal control officer~~
 8 ~~appointed by the County Commissioners or the County Commissioners' designee sees a~~
 9 ~~person committing a misdemeanor that involves cruelty to an animal, the officer shall~~
 10 ~~arrest and bring before the District Court the person committing the misdemeanor.~~

11 ~~(c) In Baltimore County, the Baltimore County Department of Health, Division~~
 12 ~~of Animal Control shall enforce this section.~~

13 ~~(D)~~

14 13-110.

15 **(A) (1) WITHIN THE FIRST 12 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT, A NEW OFFICER**
 16 **OF A HUMANE SOCIETY OR ANIMAL CONTROL SHALL SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE AT**
 17 **LEAST 80 HOURS OF TRAINING FOR ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL PROFESSIONALS**
 18 **THAT IS APPROVED BY THE APPROPRIATE UNIT OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL**
 19 **CORPORATION.**

20 **(2) THE TRAINING SHALL INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON:**

21 **(I) ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATIONS;**

22 **(II) THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND THE**
 23 **ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AS DEFINED IN § 4-701 OF THE**
 24 **FAMILY LAW ARTICLE;**

25 **(III) THE USE OF LEGAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING**
 26 **CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AND COUNTY**
 27 **CODES;**

28 **(IV) LAWFUL SEARCHES AND SEIZURES;**

29 **(V) PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICAL STANDARDS;**

30 **(VI) EVIDENCE COLLECTION AND THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY;**

1 (VII) PREPARATION FOR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS,
2 INCLUDING BASIC TRIAL PRINCIPLES AND DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS;

3 (VIII) CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND OFFICER SAFETY, INCLUDING
4 PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH; AND

5 (IX) ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOZONOSIS.

6 (3) THE UNIT OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY
7 REQUIRE OTHER TRAINING IN ADDITION TO THE TRAINING SPECIFIED IN
8 PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

9 ~~(2)~~ (B) (1) AN OFFICER OF A HUMANE SOCIETY OR ANIMAL CONTROL
10 SHALL 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 (2) THE CONTINUING EDUCATION SHALL INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON
14 THE CURRENT LAWS APPLICABLE TO OFFICERS.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.