



January 29, 2021

House Bill 281

Humane Society and Animal Control Officers- Education and Training Requirements

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Position: FAVORABLE

This bill would require animal control officers to complete at least 80 hours of training within the first 12 months of employment, and at least six hours of continuing education each year.

There currently are no educational requirements for those entering the role of Animal Control Officer in Maryland. While numerous agencies, such as ours, have internal requirements for training, there are agencies enforcing state and local laws with little to no formal training. This bill allows for the details of both the initial and continuing training to be determined by the agencies. This should ensure funding does not prevent compliance with the laws.

The Administration is supporting this legislation because HB 281 will raise the professionalism of the field of Animal Control and support our continuing efforts for public safety and best practices in the field.

The Administration urges a FAVORABLE report on HB 281.