

2013 -- H 5731

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY- ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

Introduced By: Representatives Palangio, Lima, DeSimone, and Winfield

Date Introduced: February 28, 2013

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4-15-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-15 entitled "Animals at
2 Large" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **4-15-2. ~~Appointment of field drivers.~~ — Appointment of field drivers – Animal**
4 **control officers.** -- (a) The town and city councils of the several towns and cities may appoint
5 one or more field drivers for their cities and towns, with the same power to impound animals as
6 the freeholders and qualified voters of the cities and towns.

7 (b) For the purpose of this chapter, the terms "field driver" and "animal control officer"
8 shall be synonymous with, and subject to the provisions of section 4-15-2.1.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 4-15 of the General Laws entitled "Animals at Large" is hereby
10 amended by adding thereto the following section:

11 **4-15-2.1. Animal control officers.** -- (a) Any person hired as an animal control officer
12 subsequent to January 1, 2015 shall be certified by the department of environmental management.
13 This provision shall not apply to individuals currently employed or hired prior to January 1, 2015.

14 (b) The department of environmental management shall within one hundred and twenty
15 (120) days of the passage of this section, promulgate rules and regulations regarding the training
16 and certification of animal control officers. These rules and regulations shall provide for a
17 training and certification program to be developed and conducted by the department of
18 environmental management in conjunction with Defenders of Animals Inc., a nonprofit Rhode
19 Island corporation, and/or any successor entity thereto. This training and certification program

1 shall incorporate instruction that shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

2 (1) Laws effecting animal control, animal welfare, and animal cruelty;

3 (2) Domestic and wild animal behavior;

4 (3) Handling and treatment of deceased or stray animals;

5 (4) Emergency procedures and conflict resolution skills; and

6 (5) The use of firearms and tranquilizer guns.

7 (c) No person shall be certified as an animal control officer unless he or she can

8 demonstrate proficient knowledge of the subjects set forth in this chapter.

9 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY- ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

1 This act would require pre-certification by the department of environmental management
2 of all people hired as an animal control officer subsequent to January 1, 2015. It would also
3 require the department to act in conjunction with Defenders of Animals to develop a program for
4 training and certification as an animal control officer.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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