



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5743

February Session, 2006

* HB05743ENV 032006 *

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2007*) For the purposes of
2 sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act, "animal control officer" includes a
3 regional animal control officer, assistant regional animal control
4 officer, municipal animal control officer, as defined in section 22-327 of
5 the general statutes, and an assistant municipal animal control officer.

6 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2007*) (a) The Commissioner of
7 Agriculture shall develop a training program, within available
8 appropriations, for certification of animal control officers. The program
9 shall consist of not less than eighty hours of training including, but not
10 limited to: (1) State and federal laws of arrest, search and seizure; (2)
11 state law relating to animals; (3) the basics of investigation; (4) report
12 writing and record keeping; (5) shelter or pound standards; (6) disease
13 recognition; (7) euthanasia policy; (8) ethics and professionalism in
14 dealing with the public; (9) cruelty and neglect investigations,
15 including, but not limited to, blood sports and cults; (10) animal bite
16 and vicious animal investigations; (11) officer safety and loss
17 prevention; (12) animal care, identification, behavior, handling and
18 capture and restraint techniques; (13) overview of the legal system,
19 court structure and terminology; (14) warrants; (15) civil liability

20 issues; and (16) for animal control officers employed by municipalities
21 that permit officers to carry firearms, weapons training.

22 (b) The commissioner shall approve or develop an examination,
23 within available appropriations, designed to test proficiency in the
24 subjects covered by the training program developed pursuant to
25 subsection (a) of this section. The examination may be written, oral,
26 practical or a combination thereof.

27 (c) The commissioner may approve, reject or revoke approval of any
28 animal control officer training courses including, but not limited to,
29 courses provided by the National Animal Control Association, the
30 American Humane Association, the Police Officer Standards and
31 Training Council or the Humane Society of the United States, for
32 inclusion in the training programs developed pursuant to this section.

33 (d) The commissioner may, from time to time, amend or alter the
34 training programs and the examination the commissioner develops
35 pursuant to this section.

36 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) Each person appointed as
37 an animal control officer after October 1, 2006, shall be certified
38 pursuant to training and examination standards approved by the
39 Commissioner of Agriculture not later than four years after such
40 appointment. Unless exempted pursuant to subsection (b) of this
41 section, such animal control officers shall satisfactorily complete
42 training requirements and examinations pursuant to section 2 of this
43 act. One-half of the certification shall be completed not later than two
44 years after such appointment. The provisions of section 7-294d of the
45 general statutes shall not apply to animal control officers appointed
46 pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a of the general statutes.

47 (b) The commissioner shall waive the requirement of satisfactory
48 completion of the training requirements for candidates who have
49 served as animal control officers in the state for a period of five years
50 since July 1, 1996.

51 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of sections 1 to 4, inclusive,
52 of this act, the commissioner may decline to issue a certificate if (1) the
53 applicant falsified any document in order to obtain or renew the
54 certificate, (2) the applicant has been convicted of a felony, (3) the
55 applicant has been found not guilty of a felony by reason of mental
56 disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13 of the general statutes, (4)
57 the applicant has been convicted of a violation of subsection (c) of
58 section 21a-279 of the general statutes or section 29-9 of the 2006
59 supplement to the general statutes, or (5) the applicant has been
60 refused issuance of a certificate or similar authorization or has had a
61 certificate or other similar authorization canceled or revoked by
62 another jurisdiction on grounds that would authorize cancellation or
63 revocation under the provisions of this subsection.

64 (d) The commissioner may revoke any certificate if (1) the certificate
65 was issued by administrative error, (2) the certificate was obtained
66 through misrepresentation or fraud, (3) the holder falsified any
67 document in order to obtain or renew any certificate, (4) the holder has
68 been convicted of a felony, (5) the holder has been found not guilty of a
69 felony by reason of mental disease or defect pursuant to section 53a-13
70 of the general statutes, (6) the holder has been convicted of a violation
71 of subsection (c) of section 21a-279 of the general statutes or section
72 29-9 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, or (7) the holder
73 has been refused issuance of a certificate or similar authorization or
74 has had the certificate or other authorization canceled or revoked by
75 another jurisdiction on grounds that would authorize cancellation or
76 revocation under the provisions of this subsection.

77 (e) Whenever the commissioner believes there is a reasonable basis
78 for cancellation or revocation of the certificate of an animal control
79 officer, the commissioner shall give the holder of the certificate notice
80 and an opportunity for a hearing, in accordance with the provisions of
81 section 4-182 of the general statutes. Any officer whose certification is
82 revoked pursuant to this section may reapply for certification no
83 sooner than two years after the date on which the revocation order

84 becomes final.

85 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2007*) (a) Certification of a person
 86 as an animal control officer shall expire after two years if the person
 87 has not been employed as a municipal animal control officer during
 88 that period, unless the person is an officer who has been on leave of
 89 absence. Upon reemployment of a person as an animal control officer,
 90 such officer shall apply for certification and become certified in a
 91 manner provided by section 2 of this act.

92 (b) A municipality may appoint a temporary animal control officer
 93 who does not hold a certificate pursuant to this act for a period not
 94 greater than thirty days per calendar year. The Commissioner of
 95 Agriculture may grant a one time thirty-day extension for such
 96 temporary animal control officer. The commissioner may encourage
 97 municipalities to share the services of animal control officers in the
 98 event a temporary animal control officer is needed by a municipality.

99 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2007*) The Commissioner of
 100 Agriculture may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions
 101 of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of
 102 sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act, including, but not limited to,
 103 establishing procedures for applying for certification as an animal
 104 control officer.

105 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2007*) No municipality shall be
 106 liable for compensation to any municipal animal control officer whose
 107 certification under section 3 or 4 of this act has been revoked or
 108 expired during the period of such revocation or expiration.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2007</i>	New section

Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2007</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*