



General Assembly

February Session, 2018

Raised Bill No. 5282

LCO No. 1768



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS IN MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL SHELTERS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 3 of public act 14-205 is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a task force to study the humane treatment
4 of animals in municipal and regional shelters and other matters
5 concerning the operation of such municipal and regional shelters. The
6 task force shall consider: (1) Recommendations for the establishment of
7 standards for the humane treatment of animals in such shelters; (2)
8 existing education and training standards for animal control officers
9 on current license laws; (3) rules and regulations regarding and
10 penalties for abuse; (4) the development of a system to track persons
11 who have been convicted of animal abuse in order to prevent such
12 persons from acquiring animals from shelters in other municipalities
13 or states; (5) the establishment of standards for such shelters to use
14 when evaluating potential adopters for such animals; (6) the

15 establishment of rules and responsibilities for volunteer groups that
16 work with such shelters and animal control officers; and (7) the
17 creation of a framework to coordinate the efforts of local humane
18 organizations with volunteer groups, foster groups and municipal and
19 regional animal shelters.

20 (b) In addition to the Commissioner of Agriculture or the
21 commissioner's designee, the task force shall consist of the following
22 members:

23 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
24 one of whom shall be a member of a local animal welfare advocacy
25 organization and one whom shall be a sworn officer of a municipal
26 police department;

27 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
28 of whom shall be an animal control officer and one who shall be a
29 representative of the judicial branch;

30 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
31 Representatives, who shall be a chief elected official from a town with
32 a population of more than twenty-five thousand persons;

33 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
34 a licensed veterinarian;

35 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
36 Representatives, who shall be a person who volunteers to work with
37 municipal animal shelters and animal control officers; and

38 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
39 a chief elected official from a town with a population of twenty-five
40 thousand persons or less.

41 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
42 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
43 of the General Assembly.

44 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
45 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
46 filled by the appointing authority.

47 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
48 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
49 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
50 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
51 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.
52 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2-15 of the general statutes,
53 no member of the task force shall receive mileage reimbursement or a
54 transportation allowance for traveling to or from a meeting of the task
55 force.

56 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
57 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to local
58 governments shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

59 (g) Not later than January 1, [2015] 2019, the task force shall submit
60 a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
61 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
62 relating to local governments and the environment, in accordance with
63 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force
64 shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1,
65 [2015] 2019, whichever is later.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | PA 14-205, Sec. 3 |

Statement of Purpose:

To extend the reporting deadline of the task force to study the humane treatment of animals in municipal and regional shelters, and prohibit members of the task force receiving mileage reimbursement.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]