

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1871

5 By: Representative Lemons
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING OF
9 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

Subtitle

11 TO ENSURE THE CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING
12 OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-19-104, concerning the voluntary
20 certification program for animal control officers, animal shelters, and other
21 humane society counterparts, is amended to read as follows:

22 (a) The Department of Health shall establish a voluntary certification
23 program for ~~animal control officers,~~ animal shelters, and other humane
24 society counterparts.

25 (b) The certification shall be based upon courses recommended by the
26 National Animal Control Association or its equivalent.

27 (c) Certification of animal shelters shall be based upon compliance
28 with shelter standards published by the Humane Society of the United States.

29 (d) Training shall be administered by the Arkansas State Animal
30 Control Association in cooperation with the department ~~and,~~ utilizing
31 qualified experts, including, ~~but not limited to,~~ without limitation licensed
32 veterinarians and persons holding professional registrations or
33 certifications in the appropriate areas of expertise.
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1, is
36 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:



1 20-19-105. Mandatory certification program.

2 (a) As used in this section, "animal control officer" means an officer
3 employed by or under contract with an agency of the state, county,
4 municipality, or other governmental or political subdivision of the state,
5 that is responsible for animal control operations in its jurisdiction.

6 (b) The Department of Health, in conjunction with the Arkansas State
7 Animal Control Association, shall establish a mandatory certification program
8 for animal control officers that includes a certification examination.

9 (c)(1) The certification examination shall be based on courses or
10 training recommended by the National Animal Control Association or its
11 equivalent.

12 (2) A minimum score of eighty percent (80%) on a certification
13 examination is required to receive certification.

14 (d)(1) The courses or training shall be administered by the Arkansas
15 State Animal Control Association in cooperation with the department,
16 utilizing qualified experts, including without limitation licensed
17 veterinarians and persons holding professional registrations or
18 certifications in the appropriate areas of expertise.

19 (2) The courses or training shall include a minimum of forty
20 (40) hours of instruction for a Level I certification and a minimum of
21 thirty-two (32) hours of instruction for a Level II certification.

22 (e)(1) An animal control officer shall complete a minimum of ten (10)
23 hours of continuing education courses or training every two (2) years to
24 maintain certification.

25 (2) Continuing education may include courses or training offered
26 by the Arkansas State Animal Control Association, or by any equivalent
27 organization or courses approved by the Arkansas State Animal Control
28 Association.

29 (3) Documentation of completion of continuing education
30 requirements shall be submitted to the department.

31 (f) Reasonable fees may be charged to cover the costs of continuing
32 education courses, certification training, certification examination, and
33 certification process costs.

34 (g) An animal control officer hired before January 1, 2002, is not
35 required to receive the certification training but is required to
36 successfully complete the hours of continuing education as required under

1 subdivision (e)(1) of this section.

2 (h) A person with a national animal control certification shall:

3 (1) Be issued a certification without examination upon
4 application to the department; and

5 (2) Comply with the continuing education requirements to
6 maintain certification within the state.

7 (i) The department may promulgate rules to implement this section.

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