

2015 -- H 5678

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LC001483
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- ANIMAL CARE

Introduced By: Representatives Palangio, Serpa, Winfield, Regunberg, and Lima

Date Introduced: February 26, 2015

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 4-19 of the General Laws entitled "Animal Care" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **4-19-22. Animal control officers.** – (a) Effective January 1, 2016, no municipality shall
4 certify and/or hire for employment any animal control officer who has not received certification
5 to be an animal control officer from the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA).

6 (b) The department of environmental management is hereby empowered to promulgate
7 rules and regulations regarding the training and certification of animal control officers by NACA
8 and shall provide for a training and certification program to be conducted by the NACA. The
9 department shall have one hundred twenty (120) days from the passage of this act to promulgate
10 the rules and regulations required hereunder.

11 (c) The training and certification program required by subsection (b) of this section shall
12 incorporate instruction that shall meet NACA guidelines for certification, including, but not
13 limited to, to the following criteria:

14 (1) Laws and regulations affecting animal control, animal welfare, and animal cruelty;

15 (2) Domestic and wild animal behavior;

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

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

18 (5) The use of firearms and tranquilizers guns.

19 (d) All municipal animal control officers employed as of the passage of this act shall be

1 [exempt from the provisions of this section.](#)

2 SECTION 2. 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 CARE

- 1 This act would require that municipal animal control officers be certified by the National
- 2 Animal Care & Control Association.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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