

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1871

By: Representative Lemons

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO ENSURE THE CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING
OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-19-104, concerning the voluntary certification program for animal control officers, animal shelters, and other humane society counterparts, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

(d) Training shall be administered by the Arkansas State Animal Control Association in cooperation with the department ~~and,~~ utilizing qualified experts, including, ~~but not limited to,~~ without limitation licensed veterinarians and persons holding professional registrations or certifications in the appropriate areas of expertise.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:



20-19-105. Mandatory certification program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

subdivision (e)(1) of this section.

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

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

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

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