

A BILL

20-494

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



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To amend Title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations to authorize animal control officers to operate emergency lights and sirens when responding to an animal-related emergency, and to require emergency vehicle operation training for animal care and control officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this

act may be cited as the “Animal Sirens Amendment Act of 2014”.

Sec. 2. Emergency vehicles.

Title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (18 DCMR) is amended

as follows:

(a) Section 9901.1 (18 DCMR § 9901.1) is amended by adding a new definition between “Alley” and “Appeals Board” to read as follows:

“Animal-Related Emergency – an urgent situation, as deemed by an officer of the Metropolitan Police Department or the Animal Care and Control Agency, where, for example, an animal may be dangerous to humans or other animals or where a dead or injured animal is obstructing a public space or roadway.”.

(b) Section 712 (18 DCMR § 712) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 712.1 is amended to read as follows:

“712.1 The Director may register as an authorized emergency vehicle the following:

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29 “(a) Vehicles of a fire or police department;

30 “(b) An ambulance;

31 “(c) An official government-owned vehicle used for the emergency care or preservation of
32 life, health, and property; and

33 “(d) An official vehicle operated by the Animal Care and Control Agency, established in
34 section 3 of the Animal Control Act of 1979, effective October 18, 1979 (D.C. Law 3-30; D.C.
35 Official Code § 8-1802), used for responding to an animal-related emergency as defined in 18
36 DCMR § 9901.1”.

37 (2) A new section 712.8 is added to read as follows:

38 “712.8 An animal control officer shall not operate a vehicle in accordance with this
39 section until the officer has received comprehensive training in the areas of liability, driving skills
40 and decision-making, and emergency vehicle operation as determined by the Washington
41 Metropolitan Police Department.”.

42 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

43 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal
44 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
45 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

46 Sec. 4. Effective date.

47 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
48 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as
49 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,

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50 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
51 Columbia Register.