



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To authorize animal control officers to operate emergency lights and sirens when responding to an animal-related emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Animal Sirens Amendment Act of 2013”.

Sec. 2. Emergency vehicles.

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

(a) Section 9901 (18 DCMR § 9901) is amended by adding a new paragraph 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 712.1 (18 DCMR § 712.1) is amended to read as follows:

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

(a) Vehicles of a fire or police department;

- 1 (b) An ambulance;
- 2 (c) An official government-owned vehicle used for the emergency care or  
3 preservation of life, health, and property; and
- 4 (d) An official vehicle owned by the Animal Care and Control Agency,  
5 established in section 3 of the Animal Control Act of 1979, effective October 18, 1979 (D.C.  
6 Law 3-30; D.C. Official Code § 8-1802), used for responding to an animal-related emergency as  
7 defined in section 9901 of Title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (18  
8 DCMR § 9901).”.

9 Sec. 3. Training.

10 An animal control officer may not operate a vehicle in accordance with this Act until the  
11 officer has received comprehensive training in the areas of liability, driving skills and decision-  
12 making, and emergency vehicle operation as determined by the Washington Metropolitan Police  
13 Department.

14 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

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

18 Sec. 5. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
20 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as  
21 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
22 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
23 Columbia Register.