

1 H.940

2 Introduced by Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

3 Date:

4 Subject: Crimes; animal cruelty; law enforcement; trainings

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the list
6 of individuals authorized to investigate cases of animal cruelty; require
7 humane officers to receive trainings approved by the Animal Cruelty
8 Investigation Advisory Board; require the Board to maintain an index of
9 humane officers who have received the trainings; and allow the Board to create
10 refresher training requirements for humane officers.

11 An act relating to animal cruelty investigation response and training

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 351 is amended to read:

14 § 351. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this chapter:

16 (1) “Animal” means all living sentient creatures, not human beings.

17 (2) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

18 (3) “Horse” means the entire family of equidae.

19 (4) “Humane officer” or “officer” means:

1 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 356 is amended to read:

2 § 356. HUMANE OFFICER REQUIRED TRAINING; AUTHORIZATION
3 TO PERFORM DUTIES

4 (a) All humane officers as defined in subdivision 351(4)(B) of this title
5 shall complete ~~a certification program on animal cruelty investigation training~~
6 ~~as developed and approved by the Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory~~
7 ~~Board~~ the animal cruelty response training as required by 20 V.S.A. § 2365b in
8 order to serve in the capacity of a humane officer.

9 (b) A humane officer as defined in subdivision 351(4)(B) shall be
10 authorized to serve as a humane officer if the humane officer is employed by a
11 humane society or a municipality and has completed the trainings as required
12 by this section and by 20 V.S.A. § 2365b. Upon termination of employment
13 from a humane society or municipality, the person shall no longer be
14 authorized to perform the legal functions of a humane officer.

15 (c) The Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board shall keep and at
16 least annually update an index of individuals who have completed the animal
17 cruelty response training as required by this section and by 20 V.S.A. § 2365b.

18 Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 2365b is amended to read:

19 § 2365b. ANIMAL CRUELTY RESPONSE TRAINING

20 (a) As part of basic training in order to become certified as a Level II and
21 Level III law enforcement officer, a person shall receive a ~~two-hour~~ training

1 module on animal cruelty investigations as developed and approved by the
2 Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board and approved and administered
3 by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council and the Animal Cruelty
4 Investigation Advisory Board.

5 (b) On or before December 31, 2022, humane officers as defined in
6 13 V.S.A. § 351(4)(B) shall complete an animal cruelty response training as
7 developed and approved by the Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board
8 and approved and administered by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training
9 Council. The Council shall provide the training only to designated humane
10 society employees and animal control officers appointed by the legislative
11 body of a municipality, and other humane officers as defined in 13 V.S.A.
12 § 351(4). The trainings shall be conducted on a periodic basis by qualified
13 instructors as determined by the Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board.

14 (c) The Animal Cruelty Investigation Advisory Board may elect to require
15 that humane officers as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 351(4)(B) complete a refresher
16 course on the training required by this section on a periodic basis. Such
17 refresher training shall be developed and approved by the Animal Cruelty
18 Investigation Advisory Board and approved and administered by the Vermont
19 Criminal Justice Training Council.

20 (d) On or before January 1, 2023 and annually thereafter, the Criminal
21 Justice Training Council shall provide the Animal Cruelty Investigation

1 Advisory Board with a list of the individuals that completed trainings as
2 required by this section.

3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.