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	(A) any law enforcement officer as defined in 23 V.S.A. § $4(11)(A)$;
2	auxiliary State Police officers; deputy game wardens; humane society officer,
3	employee, or agent; or investigator employed by the Office of the Attorney
4	General or State's Attorney; or
5	(B) an individual who has received the training required by section
6	356 of this title who is:
7	(i) a designated humane society employee; or
8	(ii) an animal control officer appointed by the legislative body of a
9	municipality; local board of health officer or agent; or any officer authorized to
10	serve criminal process.
11	(5) "Humane society" or "society for prevention of cruelty to animals"
12	means-the Vermont Humane Federation, Inc., or its successor, or any
13	incorporated humane society that, through its agents, has the lawful authority
14	to interfere with acts of cruelty to animals means a private, nonprofit animal
15	care agency registered and in good standing with the Vermont Secretary of
16	State.
17	* * *

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 <u>developed and</u> 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

- Advisory Board with a list of the individuals that completed trainings as
- 2 <u>required by this section.</u>
- 3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.