

First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 15-0156.02 Michael Dohr x4347

SENATE BILL 15-013

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Balmer, Guzman

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Court and Coram,

Senate Committees
Judiciary

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR PEACE OFFICERS TO
102 COMPLETE DOG ENCOUNTER TRAINING TO JUNE 30, 2015.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

Currently, law enforcement officers are required to complete dog encounter training by January 1, 2015, and any officer hired on or after January 1, 2015, must complete the training within a year of being hired. The bill moves the deadline to June 30, 2015.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that in enacting Senate Bill 15-____, it is
4 strengthening the provisions of the "Dog Protection Act". It is not the
5 general assembly's intent to diminish the original substantive portions of
6 the "Dog Protection Act".

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-112, **amend** (2)
8 introductory portion, (4) (a) (II) (B), and (4) (a) (II) (C); and **add** (2) (c)
9 as follows:

10 **29-5-112. Dog interactions with local law enforcement officers**
11 **- training to be provided by local law enforcement agencies - policies**
12 **and procedures - scope - task force - creation - composition -**
13 **immunity - definitions - short title - legislative declaration - repeal.**

14 (2) **Legislative declaration.** The general assembly finds, determines, and
15 declares that it is the policy of this state to prevent, whenever possible,
16 the shooting of dogs by local law enforcement officers in the course of
17 performing their official duties. It is therefore the intent of the general
18 assembly ~~in adopting this section~~ to:

19 (c) RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT WORK OF THE DOG PROTECTION
20 TASK FORCE IN DEVELOPING THE TRAINING AND INCORPORATING THE
21 SPECIFICS OF THE TRAINING INTO THE STATUTES. THE SEVENTEEN
22 MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE TASK FORCE REPRESENTED A VICTIM OF A
23 DOG SHOOTING, VETERINARIANS, ANIMAL WELFARE ADVOCATES, ANIMAL
24 BEHAVIORISTS, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS, THE SHERIFFS, THE POLICE,
25 AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS. THE TRAINING INCLUDES INSTRUCTION
26 REGARDING A DOG'S BODY LANGUAGE AND HOW TO INTERPRET IT, SCENE
27 ASSESSMENT, TOOLS TO USE IN DOG ENCOUNTERS, SITUATIONS INVOLVING

1 MULTIPLE DOGS, HOW TO INTERACT WITH A DOG, AND RESPONSES TO DOG
2 BEHAVIOR. THE DOG ENCOUNTERS TRAINING REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION
3 WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, ANIMAL
4 CONTROL OFFICERS, DOG OWNERS, INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, AND THE DOG.
5 THE TRAINING IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE DANGEROUS DOG TRAINING.
6 MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE TRAINING WAS DESIGNED TO LIMIT, AS MUCH AS
7 FEASIBLE, THE INSTANCES IN WHICH AN OFFICER WOULD NEED TO USE
8 DEADLY FORCE AGAINST A DOG, SINCE THE POSSIBILITY OF COLLATERAL
9 DAMAGE, INJURY, OR DEATH FROM STRAY ROUNDS IS EVER-PRESENT WHEN
10 A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER USES DEADLY FORCE.

11 (4) **Training required.** (a) (II) Each local law enforcement
12 agency in the state shall:

13 (B) Require its current local law enforcement officers to complete
14 the training program required by this subsection (4) by ~~January 1,~~ JUNE
15 30, 2015; and

16 (C) Require all local law enforcement officers hired on or after
17 ~~January 1,~~ JUNE 30, 2015, to complete the training required by this
18 subsection (4) within each officer's first year of employment.

19 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.