

2001 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2256

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
on February 3, 2001)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Watts)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 3.1-796.104:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to animal control officers; training in the reporting of suspected child abuse.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 3.1-796.104:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 3.1-796.104:1. Training of animal control officers.

A. After April 1, 1999, every locality appointing animal control officers shall require that every animal control officer and deputy animal control officer completes the following training:

1. Within two years after appointment, a basic animal control course that has been approved by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the State Veterinarian; and

2. Every three years, additional training approved by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the State Veterinarian, fifteen hours of which shall be training in animal control and protection *and shall also include training approved by the Department of Social Services in recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse and neglect.*

The Department of Criminal Justice Services and the State Veterinarian shall develop criteria to be used in approving training courses and shall provide an opportunity for public comment on proposed criteria before the final criteria are adopted.

Subdivision 1 of this subsection shall not apply to animal control officers or deputy animal control officers appointed before July 1, 1998. The State Veterinarian may grant exemptions from the requirements of subdivision 1 to animal control officers appointed on or after July 1, 1998, based on the animal control officer's previous training.

B. Upon cause shown by a locality, the State Veterinarian may grant additional time during which the training required by subsection A may be completed by an animal control officer in such locality.

C. Any animal control officer that fails to complete the training required by subsection A shall be removed from office, unless the State Veterinarian has granted additional time as provided in subsection B.

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