

2017 -- H 5540

LC001344

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -- DOGS

Introduced By: Representatives Marszalkowski, Shekarchi, and Ackerman

Date Introduced: February 16, 2017

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

(Dept. of Environmental Management)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4-13-1.3 of the General Laws in Chapter 4-13 entitled "Dogs" is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **4-13-1.3. Rabies control board.**

4 (a) There shall be a rabies control board consisting of seven (7) people as follows:

5 (1) The director of the Rhode Island department of environmental management, or his or
6 her designee;

7 (2) The director of the Rhode Island department of health, or his or her designee;

8 (3) A Rhode Island licensed veterinarian, appointed by the governor, who is a member of
9 the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association;

10 (4) A livestock farmer, appointed by the governor, who is a member of the Rhode Island
11 Farm Bureau;

12 (5) A member of a recognized Rhode Island humane group (such as the Rhode Island
13 Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), appointed by the governor;

14 (6) The state veterinarian, who shall serve as chairperson;

15 (7) A ~~member of the Rhode Island Animal Control Association,~~ person employed as an
16 animal control officer by a Rhode Island municipality, and who is recommended to serve on the
17 rabies control board by the league of cities and towns, and who is appointed by the governor.

18 (b) All appointments made under this section after April 20, 2006 shall be subject to the
19 advice and consent of the senate. The members of the board shall serve without compensation.

1 The board members from the departments of health and environmental management shall serve at
2 the discretion of their directors. The state veterinarian shall serve without term. Nongovernmental
3 members shall serve for a period of three (3) years and reappointments shall be made by the
4 governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

5 (c) Vacancies for citizen members shall be filled by appointment, in the same manner as
6 the original appointment, for the unexpired term only. Four (4) members of the board shall
7 constitute a quorum.

8 (d) Members of the board shall be removable by the governor pursuant to § 36-1-7 of the
9 general laws and for cause only. Removal solely for partisan or personal reasons unrelated to
10 capacity or fitness for the office shall be unlawful.

11 (e) The board may elect from among its members such other officers as they deem
12 necessary.

13 (f) The director of the department of environmental management shall direct staff to
14 support the board within the constraints of available resources.

15 (g) Within ninety (90) days after the end of each fiscal year, the board shall approve and
16 submit an annual report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president
17 of the senate, and the secretary of state of its activities during that fiscal year. The report shall
18 provide: an operating statement summarizing meetings or hearings held, including meeting
19 minutes, subjects addressed, decisions rendered, rules or regulations promulgated, studies
20 conducted, policies and plans developed, approved or modified, and programs administered or
21 initiated; a consolidated financial statement of all funds received and expended, including the
22 source of the funds, a listing of any staff supported by these funds, a summary of any clerical,
23 administrative, or technical support received; a summary of performance during the previous
24 fiscal year including accomplishments, shortcomings, and remedies; a synopsis of any legal
25 matters related to the authority of the board; a summary of any training courses held pursuant to
26 subsection (h); a briefing on anticipated activities in the upcoming fiscal year; and findings and
27 recommendations for improvements. The report shall be posted electronically as prescribed in §
28 42-20-8.2. The director of the department of administration shall be responsible for the
29 enforcement of this provision.

30 (h) Newly appointed and qualified members and new designees of ex officio members of
31 the board are required to complete a training course within six (6) months of their qualification or
32 designation. The course shall be developed by the chair of the board, approved by the board, and
33 conducted by the chair of the board. The board may approve the use of any board or staff
34 members or other individuals to assist with training. The course shall include instruction in the

1 following areas: chapters 13 of title 4, 46 of title 42, 14 of title 36 and 2 of title 38; and the
2 board's rules and regulations. The director of the department of administration shall, within ninety
3 (90) days of April 20, 2006, prepare and disseminate training materials relating to the provisions
4 of chapters 46 of title 42, 14 of title 36 and 2 of title 38.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would appoint an animal control officer to the rabies control board.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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