

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: County Affairs;
Municipalities

SENATE BILL NO. 2659

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF ANIMAL CONTROL
2 OFFICERS; TO PROHIBIT EMPLOYMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS WHO
3 ARE NOT CERTIFIED; TO ENACT DEFINITIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 SECTION 1. (1) For the purposes of this section, "animal
6 control officer" means any person employed or appointed by a
7 county or municipality who is authorized to investigate, on public
8 or private property, civil infractions relating to animal control
9 or cruelty and to issue citations as provided in this section. An
10 animal control officer is not authorized to bear arms or make
11 arrests; however, such officer may carry a device to chemically
12 subdue and tranquilize an animal, provided that such officer has
13 successfully completed a minimum of forty (40) hours of training
14 in marksmanship, equipment handling, safety and animal care, and
15 can demonstrate proficiency in chemical immobilization of animals
16 in accordance with guidelines prescribed in the Chemical
17 Immobilization Operational Guide of the American Humane
18 Association.

19 (2) (a) Animal control officers shall successfully complete
20 forty (40) or more hours of a minimum standards training course
21 that is either offered by or approved by the Mississippi Board of
22 Veterinary Medicine. Such course shall include, but is not
23 limited to, training for: animal cruelty investigations, search
24 and seizure, animal handling, courtroom demeanor, and civil
25 citations. An animal control officer who successfully completes
26 such a course shall be issued a certificate by the Board of

27 Veterinary Medicine indicating that he has received a passing
28 grade.

29 (b) Any person who is employed by a county or
30 municipality as an animal control officer prior to July 1, 1999,
31 shall be required to successfully complete the required course not
32 later than July 31, 2001. Any person who is employed by a county
33 or municipality as an animal control officer after July 1, 1999,
34 shall be required to successfully complete the required course not
35 later than one (1) year after the date on which he was first so
36 employed. No animal control officer shall be entitled to receive
37 any salary or other compensation from the county or municipality
38 employing him who has not completed a minimum standards training
39 course that is either offered by, or duly approved by, the Board
40 of Veterinary Medicine as required by this section.

41 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
42 and after July 1, 1999.