

## CHAPTER 68

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**GOVERNMENT - STATE**

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## SENATE BILL 15-013

BY SENATOR(S) Balmer, Guzman, Aguilar, Johnston, Kerr, Martinez Humenik, Newell, Todd, Woods;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Court and Coram, Becker K., Ginal, Kagan, Lebsock, Pettersen, Primavera, Singer, Tate, Williams.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR PEACE OFFICERS TO COMPLETE DOG ENCOUNTER TRAINING TO JUNE 30, 2015.**

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

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** The general assembly hereby finds and declares that in enacting Senate Bill 15-013, it is strengthening the provisions of the "Dog Protection Act". It is not the general assembly's intent to diminish the original substantive portions of the "Dog Protection Act".

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

**29-5-112. Dog interactions with local law enforcement officers - training to be provided by local law enforcement agencies - policies and procedures - scope - task force - creation - composition - immunity - definitions - short title - legislative declaration - repeal.** (2) **Legislative declaration.** The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that it is the policy of this state to prevent, whenever possible, the shooting of dogs by local law enforcement officers in the course of performing their official duties. It is therefore the intent of the general assembly ~~in adopting this section to:~~

(c) **RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT WORK OF THE DOG PROTECTION TASK FORCE IN DEVELOPING THE TRAINING AND INCORPORATING THE SPECIFICS OF THE TRAINING INTO THE STATUTES. THE SEVENTEEN MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE TASK FORCE REPRESENTED A VICTIM OF A DOG SHOOTING, VETERINARIANS, ANIMAL WELFARE ADVOCATES, ANIMAL BEHAVIORISTS, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS, THE SHERIFFS, THE POLICE, AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS. THE TRAINING INCLUDES INSTRUCTION REGARDING A DOG'S BODY LANGUAGE AND HOW TO INTERPRET IT, SCENE**

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

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

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

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

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

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

Approved: April 3, 2015