
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1017 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY SCHREIBER, NEILSON, THOMAS, McNEILL, KINSEY,
McCARTER, WHITE, COHEN, McGEEHAN, J. HARRIS, FRANKEL, CLAY,
HARHAI, YOUNGBLOOD, KIM AND GILLEN, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee to assist in the study of whether or not
3 the Pennsylvania State Police and other law enforcement
4 agencies should receive training on the use of nonlethal
5 force against dogs; to determine whether implementing
6 policies and procedures pertaining to nonlethal force is
7 appropriate; to determine the fiscal impact of the training;
8 and to report to the House of Representatives with its
9 findings and recommendations.

10 WHEREAS, Current law states that every law enforcement
11 officer has the legal right and duty to protect himself or
12 herself and the individuals present, if anyone encounters an
13 animal acting aggressively and believes the animal poses a
14 threat of imminent danger to the officer or another human being;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Training is essential for law enforcement to
17 adequately protect themselves, their colleagues and the general
18 public; and

19 WHEREAS, Animal behavior experts and licensed veterinarians
20 are viable options to help train law enforcement; and

21 WHEREAS, The Humane Society and the American Society for the

1 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals offer free training to police
2 departments; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
4 State Government Commission to establish, within 60 days of the
5 adoption of this resolution, an advisory committee of
6 approximately 25 members consisting of public officials and
7 experts on the issue of law enforcement training relating to the
8 use of nonlethal force against dogs; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
10 with the advisory committee, conduct a thorough and
11 comprehensive analysis on officer training which differentiates
12 between canine behaviors that indicate imminent danger of attack
13 to individuals and benign behaviors commonly exhibited by dogs,
14 such as barking, that do not suggest or pose imminent danger of
15 attack; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
17 with the advisory committee, study the issue of police officer
18 training, review other State training requirements and develop
19 recommendations best suited for this Commonwealth; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
22 the ability for law enforcement to participate in a minimum of
23 three hours of nonlethal dog training; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the final report include any recommendations
25 to implement necessary changes in State laws, practices,
26 policies and procedures relating to nonlethal force against
27 animals for all law enforcement; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
29 report to the House of Representatives with its findings and
30 recommendations not later than one year after the adoption of

1 this resolution.