
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 91 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHREIBER, COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD, McNEILL, BROWNLEE,
THOMAS, McCARTER, GILLEN, W. KELLER, ROZZI, SAINATO, SIMS,
KINSEY AND HARHAI, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee to assist in the study of the issue of
3 police officer training on the use of nonlethal force against
4 dogs, to determine the fiscal impact of the training and to
5 report its findings and recommendations to the House of
6 Representatives.

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

13 WHEREAS, Training is essential for law enforcement to
14 adequately protect themselves, their colleagues and the general
15 public; and

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

18 WHEREAS, The Humane Society and the American Society for the
19 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals offer free training to police

1 departments; therefore be it

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

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

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

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

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

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