

1-1 By: Collier, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Whitmire) H.B. No. 593  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 21, 2015;  
 1-3 April 23, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Criminal Justice; April 29, 2015, reported favorably by the  
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 29, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11			X	
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to canine encounter training for peace officers.  
 1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
 1-19 SECTION 1. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended  
 1-20 by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:  
 1-21 (1) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the  
 1-22 commission shall require an officer licensed by the commission on  
 1-23 or after January 1, 2016, to complete a canine encounter training  
 1-24 program established by the commission under Section 1701.261. An  
 1-25 officer shall complete the program not later than the second  
 1-26 anniversary of the date the officer is licensed under this chapter  
 1-27 unless the officer completes the program as part of the officer's  
 1-28 basic training course.  
 1-29 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is  
 1-30 amended by adding Section 1701.261 to read as follows:  
 1-31 Sec. 1701.261. CANINE ENCOUNTER TRAINING PROGRAM. (a) The  
 1-32 commission shall establish a statewide comprehensive education and  
 1-33 training program on canine encounters and canine behavior. The  
 1-34 training program must consist of at least four hours of classroom  
 1-35 instruction and practical training, developed and approved by the  
 1-36 commission, that addresses:  
 1-37 (1) handling canine-related calls, anticipating  
 1-38 unplanned encounters with canines, and using humane methods and  
 1-39 tools in handling canine encounters;  
 1-40 (2) recognizing and understanding canine behavior;  
 1-41 (3) state laws related to canines;  
 1-42 (4) canine conflict avoidance and de-escalation;  
 1-43 (5) use of force continuum principles in relation to  
 1-44 canines;  
 1-45 (6) using nonlethal methods, tools, and resources to  
 1-46 avoid and defend against a canine attack; and  
 1-47 (7) a general overview of encounters with other  
 1-48 animals.  
 1-49 (b) At least once every four years, the commission shall  
 1-50 review the content of the training program under this section and  
 1-51 update the program as necessary.  
 1-52 (c) Notwithstanding Sections 1701.253(1) and 1701.402(1),  
 1-53 an officer who has completed at least four hours of a canine  
 1-54 encounter training program is not required to complete the program  
 1-55 under this section.  
 1-56 SECTION 3. Section 1701.402, Occupations Code, is amended  
 1-57 by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:  
 1-58 (1) As a requirement for an intermediate or advanced  
 1-59 proficiency certificate issued by the commission on or after  
 1-60 January 1, 2016, an officer must complete the canine encounter  
 1-61 training program established by the commission under Section

2-1 1701.261.

2-2 SECTION 4. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Texas  
2-3 Commission on Law Enforcement shall establish the canine encounter  
2-4 training program as required by Section 1701.261, Occupations Code,  
2-5 as added by this Act.

2-6 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act,  
2-7 an officer employed by a county with a population of less than  
2-8 125,000 is not required to comply with Sections 1701.253(1) and  
2-9 1701.402(1), Occupations Code, as added by this Act, before January  
2-10 1, 2017.

2-11 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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