

By: Geren

H.B. No. 1310

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to canine encounter training for peace officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:

(1) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the commission shall require an officer licensed by the commission on or after January 1, 2016, to complete a canine encounter training program established by the commission under Section 1701.261. An officer shall complete the program not later than the first anniversary of the date the officer is licensed under this chapter unless the officer completes the program as part of the officer's basic training course.

SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.261 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.261. CANINE ENCOUNTER TRAINING PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish a statewide comprehensive education and training program on canine encounters and canine behavior. The training program must consist of at least six hours of classroom instruction and practical training in:

(1) handling canine-related calls, anticipating unplanned encounters with canines, and using humane methods and tools in handling canine encounters;

(2) recognizing and understanding canine behavior;

1 (3) laws and ordinances related to canines;

2 (4) canine conflict avoidance and de-escalation;

3 (5) use of force continuum principles in relation to
4 canines; and

5 (6) using nonlethal methods, tools, and resources to
6 avoid and defend against a canine attack.

7 (b) At least once every four years, the commission shall
8 review the content of the training program under this section and
9 update the program as necessary.

10 SECTION 3. Section 1701.402, Occupations Code, is amended
11 by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:

12 (1) As a requirement for an intermediate or advanced
13 proficiency certificate issued by the commission on or after
14 January 1, 2016, an officer must complete the canine encounter
15 training program established by the commission under Section
16 1701.261.

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

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.