

1 SB168
2 174481-1
3 By Senator Marsh
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
5 First Read: 14-FEB-17

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, counties have authority
9 to employ persons to prevent cruelty to animals.

10 This bill would authorize Class 5
11 municipalities, by local ordinance, to establish
12 the position of certified animal control officer
13 under the supervision of the chief of police.

14 This bill would authorize the chief of
15 police to determine the qualifications for a
16 certified animal control officer.

17 This bill would impose civil penalties for
18 violations of municipal ordinances governing the
19 treatment, care, well-being, and safety of animals
20 and authorize a certified animal control officer to
21 issue citations for violations.

22 This bill would also authorize municipal
23 courts to hear appeals and enforce the civil
24 penalties.

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26 A BILL
27 TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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3 Relating to Class 5 municipalities; to authorize
4 Class 5 municipalities to establish the position of certified
5 animal control officer under the supervision of the chief of
6 police; to authorize the chief of police to determine the
7 qualifications for a certified animal control officer; to
8 authorize a certified animal control officer to issue
9 citations for violations; to authorize civil penalties for
10 violations of municipal ordinances governing the treatment,
11 care, well-being, and safety of animals; and to authorize
12 municipal courts to hear appeals and enforce the citations.
13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

14 Section 1. (a) As used in this section, a local
15 animal control law means a municipal ordinance or local law
16 governing the treatment, care, well-being, or safety of
17 animals.

18 (b) A Class 5 municipality, by ordinance, may:

19 (1) Establish civil penalties for violations of
20 local animal control laws in an amount not to exceed one
21 thousand dollars (\$1,000) for any violation.

22 (2) Establish the position of certified animal
23 control officer as well as the authorities and
24 responsibilities of a certified animal control officer, which
25 may include the authority to issue citations, as further
26 provided in this section.

1 (c) The chief of police of a Class 5 municipality or
2 his or her designee shall be responsible for certifying and
3 revoking the certification of animal control officers, which
4 shall include establishing minimum standards for training and
5 experience that an individual must meet to qualify for
6 certification.

7 (d) A certified animal control officer authorized by
8 municipal ordinance to issue citations for violations of local
9 animal control laws may do so by either certified mail or
10 personal service.

11 (e) The municipal court of the respective Class 5
12 municipality shall have the authority to hear any appeal and
13 impose and enforce civil penalties issued pursuant to this
14 section.

15 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
16 first day of the third month following its passage and
17 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.