
ATTORNEY GENERAL

- Requires the Attorney General to adopt rules governing the training of peace officers on companion animal encounters and behavior and specifies what the rules must include.
- Requires the peace officer basic training program and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy to include training on companion animal encounters and behavior.
- With respect to entities that receive state economic development awards, requires the Attorney General to determine compliance with the terms of the award, including the performance metrics, at the end of the year by which the entity is required to meet one of those metrics, rather than annually, as required under current law.
- Requires the Attorney General to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury to participate in the federal Treasury Offset Program for the collection of outstanding state income tax and unemployment debts.

Training of peace officers on companion animal encounters

(R.C. 109.747, 109.77, and 109.79)

The bill requires the Attorney General to adopt administrative rules governing the training of peace officers on companion animal encounters and behavior. The rules must include all of the following:

(1) A specified amount of training that is necessary for satisfactory completion of basic training programs at approved peace officer training schools, other than the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy;

(2) The time within which a peace officer is required to receive that training, if the peace officer is appointed as a peace officer before receiving that training;

(3) A requirement that the training include training in all of the following:

- Handling companion animal-related calls or unplanned encounters with companion animals, with an emphasis on canine-related incidents and the use of nonlethal methods and tools in handling an encounter with a canine;



- Identifying and understanding companion animal behavior;
- State laws and municipal ordinances related to companion animals;
- Avoiding a companion animal attack;
- Using nonlethal methods to defend against a companion animal.

The bill also requires that the training provided in the peace officer basic training program and provided by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy include training on companion animal encounters and behavior.

Monitoring compliance with economic development awards

(R.C. 125.112)

Under current law, entities that receive a state award for economic development (such as a grant, loan, or other similar form of financial assistance or a contract, purchase order, or other similar transaction) must comply with certain terms and conditions, including performance metrics. The Attorney General is required to monitor the compliance of such entities with the terms and conditions of their awards and submit an annual report to the General Assembly regarding the level of compliance of each entity.

The bill would eliminate the requirement that compliance by such entities be monitored annually. Instead, the Attorney General must determine the extent to which an entity has complied with the terms and conditions of its award, including the performance metrics, *at the end of the calendar year by which the entity is required to meet a performance metric under the award* (referred to as the "closeout year.") Annually, the Attorney General would report on the compliance levels of only those entities.

Treasury Offset Program

(R.C. 131.025)

The bill requires the Attorney General to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury to participate in the federal Treasury Offset Program for the collection of state income tax obligations and unemployment compensation debts that have been certified to the Attorney General for collection pursuant to continuing law.

Under the Treasury Offset Program, an individual's or an entity's federal tax refund can be reduced by the amount the individual or entity owes for specified

government debt, including unemployment compensation debt and state income tax obligations.²¹

²¹ 26 U.S.C. 6402(e) and (f) and 31 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 285.8.

