

House Bill 803 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Benton of the 31<sup>st</sup>, Kaiser of the 59<sup>th</sup>, Drenner of the 85<sup>th</sup>, and Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to law enforcement  
2 officers and agencies, so as to require law enforcement agencies to develop policies  
3 addressing how peace officers shall negotiate their encounters with domesticated pet animals;  
4 to provide for definitions; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to law enforcement officers and  
8 agencies, is amended in Chapter 1, relating to general provisions, by adding a new Code  
9 section to read as follows:

10 "35-1-18.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Animal' means a dog, cat, bird, reptile, and any other domesticated animal  
13 customarily maintained as a pet in or near the household of its owner.

14 (2) 'Peace officer' shall have the meaning as provided for in paragraph (8) of Code  
15 Section 35-8-2.

16 (b) On and after July 1, 2014, each state, county, and local law enforcement agency shall  
17 adopt written policies that set forth the manner in which peace officers employed or  
18 appointed by the law enforcement agency shall negotiate encounters with animals and the  
19 ways in which a peace officer can control and neutralize an animal that is or becomes  
20 aggressive that utilizes the least amount of force or likelihood of harm to the animal  
21 necessary to protect the officer and the public."

22 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.