

SENATE, No. 1749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Requires licensure of dog trainers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the licensure of dog trainers and supplementing
2 Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Dog
8 Trainer Licensing Act.”

9

10 2. As used in this act:

11 “Board” means the Dog Trainer Board of Examiners established
12 under section 3 of this act.

13 “Director” means the Director of the Division of Consumer
14 Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

15 “Dog training” means the handling or training of dogs for a fee,
16 salary, or other form of compensation.

17 “Dog trainer” means a person engaged in the practice of dog
18 training or behavior modification who is licensed pursuant to the
19 provisions of this act.

20

21 3. There is created within the Division of Consumer Affairs in
22 the Department of Law and Public Safety the Dog Trainer Board of
23 Examiners. The board shall consist of nine members who are
24 residents of this State and who shall be appointed by the Governor,
25 as follows: two shall be public members to represent the interests of
26 the public, pursuant to the provisions of subsection b. of section 2
27 of P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:1-2.2); one member shall be from a
28 department in the Executive Branch of State Government, pursuant
29 to the provisions of subsection c. of P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:1-2.2);
30 three members shall be, except for the members first appointed, dog
31 trainers licensed pursuant to the provisions of this act; two members
32 shall be veterinarians licensed in this State; and one member shall
33 be affiliated with an animal protection group. The Governor shall
34 appoint each member, other than the State executive department
35 member, for terms of four years, except that of the members first
36 appointed, two shall serve for a term of four years, two shall serve
37 for a term of three years, two shall serve for a term of two years,
38 and two shall serve for terms of one year. Any vacancy in the
39 membership of the board shall be filled for the unexpired term in
40 the manner provided for the original appointment. No member of
41 the board may serve more than two successive terms in addition to
42 any unexpired term to which the member has been appointed.

43

44 4. The board shall organize within 30 days after the
45 appointment of its members and shall annually elect from among its
46 members a chairperson and vice-chairperson, and shall appoint a
47 secretary who need not be a member of the board. The board shall

1 meet twice a year and may hold additional meetings as necessary to
2 discharge its duties. A majority of the board membership shall
3 constitute a quorum.

4

5 5. The board shall:

6 a. adopt a seal to authenticate its records and proceedings;

7 b. prescribe rules pertaining to types and methods of
8 examination of applicants for licensure;

9 c. examine and pass on the qualifications of applicants for
10 licensure under this act, and issue a license to each qualified and
11 successful applicant, attesting to the applicant's professional
12 qualification to practice as a dog trainer;

13 d. keep records of its proceedings and a register of all persons
14 to whom licenses have been issued, and a record of all license
15 renewals, suspensions and revocations;

16 e. maintain records of expenses incurred by members of the
17 board in the performance of their duties;

18 f. take disciplinary action, in accordance with P.L.1978, c.73
19 (C.45:1-14 et seq.), against any dog trainer who violates the
20 provisions of this act or any regulation promulgated hereunder;

21 g. adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative
22 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) as it deems
23 necessary to administer the provisions of this act; and

24 h. pursuant to P.L.1974, c.46 (C.45:1-3.1 et seq.), prescribe or
25 change the charges for examination, licensure, renewal and other
26 services performed.

27

28 6. There shall be an Executive Director of the board appointed
29 by the director who shall serve at the director's pleasure. The salary
30 of the Executive Director shall be determined by the director within
31 the limit of available funds. The director may, within the limits of
32 available funds, hire any assistants as are necessary to administer
33 this act.

34

35 7. No person shall practice, attempt to practice, or hold himself
36 out as being able to practice dog training unless that person is
37 licensed in accordance with the provisions of this act.

38

39 8. To be eligible to be licensed as a dog trainer, an applicant
40 shall fulfill the following requirements:

41 a. be at least 18 years of age;

42 b. be of good moral character;

43 c. have successfully completed high school or successfully
44 passed a high school equivalency examination developed by the
45 General Education Development (GED) Testing Service;

46 d. have successfully completed a minimum of 300 hours in dog
47 training, under the supervision of, and documented by, a dog trainer

1 licensed pursuant to this act, within the three years immediately
2 preceding application for licensure under this act pursuant to the
3 following:

4 (1) of the 300 hours required, no less than 225 hours shall
5 include training in conducting group dog training classes,
6 conducting private dog training classes, and consulting with clients;

7 (2) of the 300 hours required, up to 75 hours may include work
8 as a licensed dog trainer's assistant, work as a veterinary technician
9 or assistant, work as a dog groomer, volunteering at an animal
10 shelter, designing dog training lesson plans, or consulting with a
11 licensed dog trainer on client cases;

12 (3) hours of experience gained as a licensed dog trainer's
13 assistant may count toward the hours required under paragraph (1)
14 of this subsection provided that the applicant's role as an assistant
15 includes actively instructing a client or training a dog;

16 (4) if any of the hours of experience gained under paragraph (2)
17 of this subsection are not under the supervision of a licensed dog
18 trainer, the applicant shall provide documentation from any other
19 person that supervised the applicant, including, but not limited to, a
20 veterinarian, an owner or supervisory employee of a dog grooming
21 business, or a supervisory employee of an animal shelter; and

22 (5) the 300 hours of experience required under this subsection
23 shall not apply to any applicant who submits proof satisfactory to
24 the board no later than 180 days after the date procedures are
25 established by the board for applying for licensure under this act
26 that the applicant has engaged in the practice of dog training in this
27 State continuously for at least one year prior to the effective date of
28 this act; and

29 e. pass an examination administered or approved by the board
30 to determine the applicant's competence to practice dog training;
31 except that this requirement shall not apply to any applicant who
32 submits proof satisfactory to the board no later than 180 days after
33 the date procedures are established by the board for applying for
34 licensure under this act that the applicant has passed any
35 Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT)
36 certification examination, or any other examination that is
37 determined by the board to be a substantially similar assessment of
38 dog training skills and competency, prior to the effective date of
39 this act.

40

41 9. Each applicant for a license as a dog trainer shall be
42 examined by the board. The examination shall be held at least
43 twice a year at the times and places to be determined by the board.
44 The board, in consultation with the Certification Council for
45 Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), shall adopt as the examination
46 required under this section any examination as developed and
47 administered by CCPDT, or any other examination that is

1 determined by the board to be a substantially similar assessment of
2 dog training skills and competency.

3
4 10. a. All licenses shall be issued for a three-year period and
5 shall be renewed upon filing a renewal application.

6 b. All applicants shall pay a fee for licensure and renewal for
7 licensure under this act. Fees shall be determined by the board and
8 established by regulation. The revenue generated from these fees
9 shall not exceed the operating costs incurred by the board in
10 administering this act.

11 c. A license shall not be renewed until the license holder
12 submits satisfactory evidence to the board that during the preceding
13 three years the license holder has completed such continuing
14 education credits as are to be determined by the board pursuant to
15 regulation. The board shall approve, in consultation with the
16 Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT),
17 continuing education credits that build upon the basic knowledge of
18 dog training and which enhance the competency of the license
19 holder. The board may make exceptions from the continuing
20 education requirement in emergency or hardship cases with the
21 approval of an affirmative vote of a majority of the board.

22
23 11. This act shall take effect on the 180th day next following
24 enactment.

25 26 27 STATEMENT

28
29 This bill provides for the regulation and licensing of dog trainers.
30 The bill establishes the Dog Trainer Board of Examiners in the
31 Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public
32 Safety, which will consist of nine members. Two members will be
33 public members; three members will be licensed dog trainers,
34 except for the members first appointed; two members will be
35 veterinarians licensed in this State; one member will be affiliated
36 with an animal protection group; and one member will be a State
37 executive department member.

38 The bill permits the board to establish fees for those licensed
39 under the bill and incorporates the terms of the law on fees of
40 professional boards, P.L.1974, c.46 (C.45:1-3.1 et seq.), and the
41 uniform enforcement and procedure act, P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-
42 14 et seq.), for enforcement of standards and punishment of
43 violations.

44 To be eligible to be licensed as a dog trainer, an applicant shall:
45 be at least 18 years of age; be of good moral character; have
46 successfully completed high school or successfully passed a high
47 school equivalency examination developed by the General

1 Education Development (GED) Testing Service; have successfully
2 completed a minimum of 300 hours in dog training under the
3 supervision of, and documented by, a dog trainer licensed pursuant
4 to this bill in the three years previous to applying for licensure; and
5 pass an examination administered or approved by the board to
6 determine the applicant's competence to practice dog training.

7 The examination required by the bill must be held at least twice a
8 year at the times and places to be determined by the board. The
9 board, in consultation with the Certification Council for
10 Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), must adopt as the examination
11 required of applicants for licensure under this bill any CCPDT
12 certification examination, or any other examination that is
13 determined by the board to be a substantially similar assessment of
14 dog training skills and competency.

15 The bill provides an exemption from the requirement that an
16 applicant for licensure successfully complete a minimum of 300
17 hours in supervised dog training if the applicant provides proof
18 satisfactory to the board that the applicant has engaged in the
19 practice of dog training in this State continuously for at least one
20 year prior to the effective date of the bill. There is also an
21 exemption from the requirement that an applicant for licensure pass
22 an examination administered or approved by the board if the
23 applicant provides proof satisfactory to the board that the applicant
24 has passed any CCPDT certification examination, or any other
25 examination that is determined by the board to be a substantially
26 similar assessment of dog training skills and competency, prior to
27 the effective date of the bill.

28 The bill provides for licenses to be issued for a three-year period,
29 and will be renewed upon filing a renewal application. A license
30 will not be renewed until the license holder submits satisfactory
31 evidence to the board that during the preceding three years the
32 license holder has completed such continuing education credits as
33 are to be determined by the board pursuant to regulation. The board
34 will approve, in consultation with the Certification Council for
35 Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), continuing education credits
36 that build upon the basic knowledge of dog training and which
37 enhance the competency of the license holder. The board may
38 make exceptions from the continuing education requirement in
39 emergency or hardship cases with the approval of an affirmative
40 vote of a majority of the board.