

---

**SENATE BILL 5016**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Van De Wege, Sheldon, Conway, Fortunato, Palumbo, Takko, and Wagoner

Prefiled 12/10/18. Read first time 01/14/19. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing animal control officers to carry  
2 firearms for personal protection; and amending RCW 16.52.015.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 16.52.015 and 2011 c 172 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Law enforcement agencies and animal care and control agencies  
7 may enforce the provisions of this chapter. Animal care and control  
8 agencies may enforce the provisions of this chapter in a county or  
9 city only if the county or city legislative authority has entered  
10 into a contract with the agency to enforce the provisions of this  
11 chapter.

12 (2) Animal control officers enforcing this chapter shall comply  
13 with the same constitutional and statutory restrictions concerning  
14 the execution of police powers imposed on law enforcement officers  
15 who enforce this chapter and other criminal laws of the state of  
16 Washington.

17 (3) Animal control officers have the following enforcement powers  
18 when enforcing this chapter:

19 (a) The power to issue citations based on probable cause to  
20 offenders for civil infractions and misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor

1 violations of this chapter or RCW 9.08.070 through 9.08.078 or  
2 81.48.070;

3 (b) The power to cause a law enforcement officer to arrest and  
4 take into custody any person the animal control officer has probable  
5 cause to believe has committed or is committing a violation of this  
6 chapter or RCW 9.08.070 or 81.48.070. Animal control officers may  
7 make an oral complaint to a prosecuting attorney or a law enforcement  
8 officer to initiate arrest. The animal control officer causing the  
9 arrest shall file with the arresting agency a written complaint  
10 within twenty-four hours of the arrest, excluding Sundays and legal  
11 holidays, stating the alleged act or acts constituting a violation;

12 (c) The power to carry firearms and nonfirearm protective devices  
13 for personal protection;

14 (d) The power to prepare affidavits in support of search warrants  
15 and to execute search warrants when accompanied by law enforcement  
16 officers to investigate violations of this chapter or RCW 9.08.070 or  
17 81.48.070, and to seize evidence of those violations.

18 (4) Upon request of an animal control officer who has probable  
19 cause to believe that a person has violated this chapter or RCW  
20 9.08.070 or 81.48.070, a law enforcement agency officer may arrest  
21 the alleged offender.

--- END ---