S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

132

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. CAHILL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the transportation law and the civil rights law, in relation to allowing therapy dogs to enter public places and public transportation

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 147 of the transportation law, as amended by chapter 404 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

S 147. Dogs accompanying persons with a disability. (A) Subject to such rules and regulations as the commissioner may prescribe, all common and contract carriers of passengers by motor vehicle shall permit a guide dog, hearing dog [or], service dog OR THERAPY DOG properly harnessed, accompanying a person with a disability, as defined in subdivision twenty-one of section two hundred ninety-two of the executive law, OR AN OWNER OR HANDLER OF SUCH DOGS OR SUCH PERSONS LICENSED TO TRAIN SUCH DOGS to aid and guide such DISABLED person, to ride on all vehicles operated for transportation and no charge shall be made for the transportation of such dog.

(B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "THERAPY DOG" SHALL MEAN ANY DOG THAT IS CERTIFIED AND TRAINED TO WORK OR PERFORM SPECIFIC TASKS FOR THE BENEFIT OF PERSONS INCLUDING THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, AUTISM, DRUG ADDICTION, DISTRESS DUE TO EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE AND CLINICAL DEPRESSION OR BIPOLAR DISEASE BY A RECOGNIZED THERAPY DOG TRAINING CENTER OR PROFESSIONAL THERAPY DOG TRAINER AND IS ACTUALLY USED FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 47 of the civil rights law, as amended by chapter 404 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

1. (A) No person shall be denied admittance to and/or the equal use of and enjoyment of any public facility solely because said person is a

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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person with a disability and is accompanied by a guide dog, hearing dog [or], service dog OR THERAPY DOG OR IS AN OWNER OR HANDLER OF SUCH DOG OR OTHERWISE A PERSON LICENSED TO TRAIN SUCH DOGS.

(B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "THERAPY DOG" SHALL MEAN ANY DOG THAT IS CERTIFIED AND TRAINED TO WORK OR PERFORM SPECIFIC TASKS FOR THE BENEFIT OF PERSONS INCLUDING THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, AUTISM, DRUG ADDICTION, DISTRESS DUE TO EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE AND CLINICAL DEPRESSION OR BIPOLAR DISEASE BY A RECOGNIZED THERAPY DOG TRAINING CENTER OR PROFESSIONAL THERAPY DOG TRAINER AND IS ACTUALLY USED FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.