

5788

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

March 6, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. BENEDETTO -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, the civil rights law, the agriculture  
and markets law, the transportation law and the public housing law, in  
relation to service animals, guide dogs, hearing dogs or service dogs;  
and to repeal certain provisions of the executive law relating thereto

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

1     Section 1. Subdivisions 32 and 33 of section 292 of the executive law  
2     are REPEALED and subdivision 31, as added by chapter 133 of the laws of  
3     2007, is amended to read as follows:  
4     31. The term "guide dog" [means any dog that is trained to aid a  
5     person who is blind by a recognized guide dog training center or profes-  
6     sional guide dog trainer, and is actually used for such purpose], "HEAR-  
7     ING DOG" OR "SERVICE DOG" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS THOSE TERMS ARE  
8     DEFINED IN SECTION FORTY-SEVEN-B OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAW.  
9     S 2. Subdivision 14 of section 296 of the executive law, as amended by  
10    chapter 133 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as follows:  
11    14. It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice for any person  
12    engaged in any activity covered by this section to discriminate against  
13    a blind person, a hearing impaired person or a person with [a] ANOTHER  
14    disability on the basis of his or her use of a guide dog, hearing dog or  
15    service dog.  
16    S 3. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 47-b of the civil rights law, as  
17    amended by chapter 404 of the laws of 1986, are amended and a new subdi-  
18    vision 7 is added to read as follows:  
19    3. [Persons qualified to train dogs] A PERSON ENGAGED IN TRAINING A  
20    DOG to [aid and] guide OR OTHERWISE AID persons with a disability, while  
21    engaged in such training activities, AND A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY FOR  
22    WHOM THE DOG IS BEING TRAINED, shall have the same rights and privileges  
23    set forth for persons with a disability in this article.  
24    4. The term "guide dog", OR "hearing dog" [or "service dog"] shall  
25    mean a dog [which] THAT is [properly harnessed] UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE  
26    PERSON USING OR TRAINING IT and has been or is being trained [by a qual-

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

LBD09655-01-3

ified person,] to [aid and] guide OR OTHERWISE TO AID a person with a disability.

7. "SERVICE DOG" MEANS ANY DOG UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PERSON USING OR TRAINING IT AND THAT HAS BEEN OR IS BEING INDIVIDUALLY TRAINED TO DO WORK OR PERFORM TASKS FOR THE BENEFIT OF A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY.

S 4. Subdivisions 9, 21, 22 and 26 of section 108 of the agriculture and markets law, subdivisions 9 and 21 as amended by chapter 404 of the laws of 1986, subdivision 22 as amended by chapter 39 of the laws of 2002 and subdivision 26 as added by chapter 558 of the laws of 2002, are amended to read as follows:

9. "Guide dog" means any dog that is trained to aid a person who is blind and is actually used for such purpose, or any dog [owned by a recognized guide dog training center located within the state] during the period such dog is being trained or bred for such purpose.

21. "Hearing dog" means any dog that is trained to aid a person with a hearing impairment and is actually used for such purpose, or any dog [owned by a recognized training center located within the state] during the period such dog is being trained or bred for such purpose.

22. "Service dog" means any dog that has been or is being individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability[, provided that the dog is or will be owned by such person or that person's parent, guardian or other legal representative].

26. "Therapy dog" means any dog that is trained to aid the emotional and physical health of patients in hospitals, nursing homes, retirement homes and other settings and is actually used for such purpose, or any dog [owned by a recognized training center located within the state] during the period such dog is being trained or bred for such purpose.

S 5. 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. 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 [properly harnessed,] AS DEFINED IN SECTION FORTY-SEVEN-B OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAW accompanying a person with a disability, as defined in subdivision twenty-one of section two hundred ninety-two of the executive law, to [aid and guide] ACCOMPANY, TO GUIDE, OR OTHERWISE TO AID such person, to ride on all vehicles operated for transportation and no charge shall be made for the transportation of such dog.

S 6. Section 223-b of the public housing law, as added by chapter 689 of the laws of 1980, is amended to read as follows:

S 223-b. Discrimination against A PERSON WITH A hearing [impaired persons] IMPAIRMENT who [have] HAS A hearing [dogs] DOG. No [hearing impaired] person who has a hearing impairment [manifested by a speech discrimination score of forty percent or less in the better ear with appropriate correction as certified by a licensed audiologist or otorhinolaryngologist as defined in section seven hundred eighty-one of the general business law, or a physician who has examined such person pursuant to the provisions of section seven hundred eighty-four of such law,] shall be denied occupancy in a dwelling in any project or be subjected to eviction from any such dwelling on the sole ground that such person owns a hearing dog AS DEFINED IN SECTION FORTY-SEVEN-B OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAW, provided, however, that if after occupancy a health hazard results on account of such dog, the public health officer having jurisdiction may take such corrective measures as may be appropriate.

S 7. This act shall take effect immediately.