

STATE OF NEW YORK

8926

IN ASSEMBLY

January 8, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. TITONE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend a chapter of the laws of 2017, amending the agriculture and markets law relating to examining the need for standards for the designation of therapy dogs and the definition and identification of therapy dogs, in relation to examining the need for standards for the designation of therapy dogs

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 1 of a chapter of the laws of 2017, amending the agriculture and markets law relating to examining the need for standards for the designation of therapy dogs and the definition and identification of therapy dogs, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 6565 and A. 6801-A, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. The commissioner of agriculture and markets shall convene a working group to examine the need for statewide standards for therapy dogs, as such term is defined in subdivision 26 of section 108 of article 7 of the agriculture and markets law, including, but not limited to, training, evaluation and certification procedures for the designation of a dog as a "therapy dog" and the need for identification, education and information for the public about such dogs, the rights and responsibilities of such dog owners, the use of such dogs in institutions and facilities and the distinction between such dogs and service dogs or animals and other similar dogs or animals such as emotional support animals. The [~~commissioner~~] working group shall [~~consult with the commissioners~~] include representatives from the department of agriculture and markets, the department of health [and], the office of mental health, the division of human rights [and], the office of alcoholism and substance abuse services, the office of children and family services, the office for the aging, the division of veterans' affairs and relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, representatives of the dog training industry, the disability community, animal protection organizations, the business community, local government officials, and the medical and mental health community and professionals, among others [~~in~~

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

LBD10693-07-8

1 ~~reviewing the need for the establishment of such state standards and any~~
2 ~~other recommendations related to the commissioner's findings~~. The
3 ~~[commissioner]~~ working group shall report to the governor, the temporary
4 president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than
5 October 1, 2018 on the ~~[commissioner's]~~ findings regarding the need for
6 standards and public information regarding therapy dogs.

7 § 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same
8 manner as a chapter of the laws of 2017, amending the agriculture and
9 markets law relating to examining the need for standards for the desig-
10 nation of therapy dogs and the definition and identification of therapy
11 dogs, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 6565 and A. 6801-A,
12 takes effect.