

STATE OF NEW YORK

5080--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 7, 2017

Introduced by Sens. KENNEDY, HOYLMAN, PERALTA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law and the agriculture and markets law, in relation to therapy dogs and cats for persons with disabilities

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 14 of section 296 of the executive law, as
2 amended by chapter 141 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 14. In addition to reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or
5 procedures, including those defined in subparagraph (iv) of paragraph
6 (d) of subdivision two of this section or reasonable accommodations for
7 persons with disabilities as otherwise provided in this section, includ-
8 ing the use of an animal as a reasonable accommodation, it shall be an
9 unlawful discriminatory practice for any person engaged in any activity
10 covered by this section to deny access or otherwise to discriminate
11 against a blind person, a hearing impaired person or a person with
12 another disability because he or she is accompanied by a dog that has
13 been trained to work or perform specific tasks for the benefit of such
14 person by a professional guide dog, hearing dog or service dog training
15 center or professional guide dog, hearing dog or service dog trainer, or
16 to discriminate against such professional guide dog, hearing dog or
17 service dog trainer engaged in such training of a dog for use by a
18 person with a disability, whether or not accompanied by the person for
19 whom the dog is being trained. This section shall apply regardless of
20 breed, or any other type of therapy dog or cat.

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

LBD10456-02-7

1 § 2. Subdivision 26 of section 108 of the agriculture and markets law,
2 as amended by chapter 536 of the laws of 2014, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 26. "Therapy dog or cat" means any dog or cat that is trained to aid
5 the emotional and physical health of patients in hospitals, nursing
6 homes, retirement homes, personal residences, and other settings and is
7 actually used for such purpose, or any dog or cat during the period such
8 dog or cat is being trained or bred for such purpose.

9 § 3. Subdivision 1 of section 356 of the executive law is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 1. A state veterans' service agency established by the division pursu-
12 ant to this article shall have power and it shall be its duty to inform
13 military and naval authorities of the United States and assist members
14 of the armed forces and veterans, who are residents of this state, and
15 their families, in relation to (1) matters pertaining to educational
16 training and retraining services and facilities, (2) health, medical and
17 rehabilitation services and facilities, (3) provisions of federal, state
18 and local laws and regulations affording special rights and privileges
19 to members of the armed forces and war veterans and their families, (4)
20 employment and re-employment services, [~~and~~] (5) housing services
21 including but not limited to instances of discrimination, and (6) other
22 matters of similar, related or appropriate nature. The state veterans'
23 service agency also shall perform such other duties as may be assigned
24 by the state director.

25 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.