

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1302

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 8, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL, BARRON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to assistance for guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs and to repeal section 303-a of such law relating thereto

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

1 Section 1. Section 303-a of the social services law is REPEALED and a  
2 new section 131-y is added to read as follows:

3 § 131-y. Assistance for guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs. 1.  
4 It shall be the duty of the social services official to provide assist-  
5 ance, in accordance with regulations of the department, to a person with  
6 a disability using a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog who has been  
7 determined to be eligible for or is receiving, including but not limited  
8 to, federal supplemental security income benefits, supplemental nutri-  
9 tion assistance program benefits, medical assistance for needy persons  
10 and/or additional state payments under this chapter, for the purchase of  
11 food and the cost of veterinarian expenses for such dog.

12 2. Such regulations of the department shall fix an amount of not less  
13 than fifty dollars a month, and the method and frequency of distribution  
14 and procedures for the determination and periodical redetermination of  
15 eligibility for such assistance.

16 3. Such assistance shall not be granted to any person for whom earned  
17 income has been exempted for such purpose pursuant to federal law or  
18 regulation.

19 4. The full amount properly expended by social services districts  
20 under this section, including costs of administration, shall be reim-  
21 bursed by the state.

22 5. For purposes of this section, "service dog" shall mean any dog,  
23 regardless of certification, under the control of the person using or  
24 training it and that has been or is being individually trained to do  
25 work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.

26 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
27 it shall have become a law.

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

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