STATE OF NEW YORK

5499

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 15, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL, OTIS -- 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:

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 Section 303-a of the social services law is REPEALED and a new section 131-y is added to read as follows:

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

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

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

4. The full amount properly expended by social services districts under this section, including costs of administration, shall be reimbursed by the state.

5. For purposes of this section, "service dog" shall mean any dog, regardless of certification, under the control of the person using or

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

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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.

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