STATE OF NEW YORK

2247

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 19, 2023

Introduced by Sen. WEIK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations

AN ACT to amend the civil rights law, in relation to requiring certain healthcare facilities to develop plans to provide reasonable accommodations for service animals

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

Section 1. Section 47-b of the civil rights law is amended by adding a new subdivision 8 to read as follows:

8. Each hospital or healthcare facility that provides emergency services shall develop a plan to provide a reasonable accommodation for service animals brought into such facility during an emergency or any time that a patient needs medical treatment and such service animal cannot be with such patient. Such reasonable accommodation shall include, but not be limited to, a space or area to house such service animal until such time as a family member, designated person, or service animal agency can collect such service animal or such service animal can be reunited with the patient at the hospital or healthcare facility. For purposes of this subdivision, "service animal" shall mean any animal that has been partnered with a person who has a disability and has been trained or is being trained, by a qualified person, to aid or guide a person with a disability.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after 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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