

1 HB502  
2 128610-3  
3 By Representative Payne  
4 RFD: Judiciary  
5 First Read: 12-APR-11

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ENROLLED, An Act,

To amend Section 21-7-4 of the Code of Alabama 1975, authorizing a blind or hearing impaired person, or a person training a guide dog under certain conditions, to be accompanied by a guide dog or hearing dog; to authorize a person who is physically disabled to be accompanied by a service animal, specially trained to assist the disabled person to do or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability; to provide that a person training a service animal would be granted the same privileges; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 21-7-4 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§21-7-4.

~~"(a) For the purposes of this section, the term "service animal" means a guide dog, hearing dog, signal dog, or other animal specially trained or being trained to assist a person with a physical disability.~~

1           "(a) For the purposes of this section, the term  
2 service animal means any dog that is individually trained to  
3 do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with  
4 a disability.

5           "(b) Every person with a disability, including a  
6 person who is totally or partially blind, ~~person shall have~~  
7 ~~the right to be accompanied by a guide dog, especially trained~~  
8 ~~for the purpose, and every hearing-impaired,~~ or diagnosed on  
9 the autism spectrum ~~person shall have the right to be~~  
10 ~~accompanied by a hearing dog~~ service animal, ~~especially~~  
11 ~~trained for the purpose, and every person employed by an~~  
12 ~~accredited school for training guide dogs shall have the right~~  
13 ~~to be accompanied by a guide dog in training in any public~~  
14 place, including a public or private school, and any of the  
15 places listed in Section 21-7-3. ~~without being~~ The person may  
16 not be ~~required to pay an extra charge for the dog however,~~  
17 ~~the person shall be liable for any damages done to the~~  
18 ~~premises or facilities by the dog~~ service animal.

19           "(c) The work or tasks performed by a service animal  
20 must be directly related to the handler's disability.

21           ~~"(c)~~ (d) A person training a service animal shall be  
22 entitled to the same privileges granted to a person with a  
23 disability pursuant to subsection (b).

24           ~~"(d)~~ (e) In the case of a disabled child, including  
25 a child diagnosed on the autism spectrum, any aide assigned to

1 assist the child shall be trained with the service animal in  
2 basic commands in order to assist the child as a team.

3 "~~(e)~~ (f) This section does not relieve a person  
4 accompanied by a service animal from liability for any damages  
5 done to the premises or facilities by the service animal."

6 Section 2. Although this bill would have as its  
7 purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased  
8 expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further  
9 requirements and application under Amendment 621 because the  
10 bill defines a new crime or amends the definition of an  
11 existing crime.

12 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the  
13 first day of the third month following its passage and  
14 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

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House of Representatives

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I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was passed by the House 05-MAY-11.

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Greg Pappas  
Clerk

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Senate

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02-JUN-11

Amended and Passed

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House

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02-JUN-11

Concurred in Sen-  
ate Amendment

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