

SENATE, No. 538

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Amends “Law Against Discrimination” to provide every person engaged in raising a dog for guide or service the right to access public facilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning the Law Against Discrimination and amending
2 Title 10 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 5 of P.L.1977, c.456 (C.10:5-29.3) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 5. **[A service or guide dog trainer]** Every person, while
10 engaged in the actual training process and activities of service dogs
11 or guide dogs, shall have the same rights and privileges with respect
12 to access to public facilities, and the same responsibilities as are
13 applicable to a person with a disability if:

14 a. the service or guide dog is wearing a collar, leash, or other
15 appropriate apparel or device that identifies the dog as participating
16 in a training program with an accredited program for service or
17 guide dogs; and

18 b. the service or guide dog is being held on a leash, and is
19 under the control of the person raising the dog for an accredited
20 training program; and

21 c. the person has in his possession, and available for
22 inspection, credentials from an accredited program identifying him
23 as a participant in a service or guide dog training program.

24 (cf: P.L.2003, c.180, s.21)

25

26 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
27 following enactment.

28

29

30

STATEMENT

31

32 This bill would amend section 5 of the New Jersey “Law Against
33 Discrimination,” P.L.1977, c.456 (C.10:5-29.3), to provide every
34 person engaged in raising a dog for guide or service, the same rights
35 and privileges with respect to access to public facilities as a person
36 with a disability, for dog training purposes.

37 Under current law, professional service and guide dog trainers,
38 who typically begin training dogs at 18 to 20 months of age, have
39 the same rights and privileges with respect to access to public
40 facilities as persons with disabilities. However, there are volunteers
41 who often raise service and guide dogs prior to their entering formal
42 training, from approximately eight weeks to 18 months, who do not
43 have the same rights as persons with disabilities or professional
44 trainers. This bill would extend the rights and privileges of persons

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 with disabilities with respect to access to public facilities, to
2 persons who volunteer to raise service or guide dogs, subject to
3 them meeting the requirements in this bill.

4 This bill requires that in public facilities a service or guide dog
5 in training must (1) wear a collar, leash, or other appropriate
6 apparel or device that identifies the dog as a participant in a training
7 program with an accredited service or guide dog training program;
8 and (2) be held on a leash, and under the control of the person
9 raising the dog for an accredited program. The bill also requires
10 that the volunteer have in his possession, and available for
11 inspection, credentials from an accredited program identifying him
12 as a participant in a service or guide dog training program.