

ASSEMBLY, No. 3502

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 11, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DAVID C. RUSSO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman SCOTT T. RUMANA

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Fiocchi

SYNOPSIS

Exempts service dogs temporarily placed in foster homes from dog licensing and registration tag requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/10/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning service dogs and amending P.L.1941, c.151.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 2 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.2) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 2. Any person who shall own, keep or harbor a dog of licensing
9 age shall annually or every third year, in accordance with a 3-year
10 dog license or renewal thereof issued under subsection b. of section
11 12 of this act (C. 4:19-15.12b), apply for and procure from the clerk
12 of the municipality or other official designated by the governing
13 body thereof to license dogs in the municipality in which he
14 resides, a license and official metal registration tag for each such
15 dog so owned, kept or harbored, and shall place upon each such
16 dog a collar or harness with the registration tag securely fastened
17 thereto. A person or group temporarily caring for a dog placed in a
18 foster home as part of a formalized training to be a guide, service,
19 or hearing ear dog shall be exempt from applying for and procuring
20 a license and registration tag for the dog while the dog is placed in
21 the foster home.

22 (cf: P.L.1982, c. 203, s. 1)

23

24 2. Section 3 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.3) is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 3. The person applying for the license and registration tag shall
27 pay the fee fixed or authorized to be fixed in section 12 of this act,
28 and the sum of \$1.00 for a one-year registration tag or \$3.00 for a
29 three-year registration tag for each dog; and for each renewal, the
30 fee for the license and for the registration tag shall be the same as
31 for the original license and tag; and said licenses, registration tags
32 and renewals thereof shall expire no later than June 30 in the year
33 stated on the license; except that this expiration date shall not
34 require a municipality to alter its schedule for administering rabies
35 inoculations to any dog to be licensed and registered; nor shall this
36 expiration date require a municipality to alter its schedule for
37 renewing licenses and registration tags, provided that the
38 registration period precedes June 30. The governing body of a
39 municipality may stagger the expiration of such annual licenses so
40 long as all expirations occur no later than June 30 in the calendar
41 year stated on the license.

42 Only one license and registration tag shall be required in any
43 licensing year for any dog owned in New Jersey, and such license
44 and tag shall be accepted by all municipalities as evidence of
45 compliance with this section.

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 Dogs used as guides for blind persons and commonly known as
2 "seeing-eye" dogs, dogs used to assist **【handicapped】** persons with
3 developmental disabilities and commonly known as "service dogs,"
4 or dogs used to assist deaf persons and commonly known as
5 "hearing ear" dogs shall be licensed and registered as other dogs
6 hereinabove provided for, except that the owner or keeper of **【such】**
7 a guide, service, or hearing ear dog shall not be required to pay any
8 fee therefor, and dogs temporarily placed in foster homes as part of
9 a formalized training to be guide, service, or hearing ear dogs shall
10 not be required to be licensed and registered while placed in foster
11 homes.

12 License forms and uniform official metal registration tags
13 designed by the **【State】** Department of Health shall be furnished by
14 the municipality and shall be numbered serially and shall bear the
15 year of issuance and the name of the municipality.

16 (cf: P.L 1996, c. 113, s. 1)

17

18 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

19

20

21

STATEMENT

22

23 This bill stipulates that a person or group caring for a dog placed
24 in a foster home as part of the dog's training to be a guide, service,
25 or hearing ear dog is exempt from dog licensing and registration tag
26 requirements, and that a guide, service, or hearing ear dog placed in
27 foster homes for training do not have to be licensed or registered, as
28 is the case with all other dogs.

29 Specifically, the bill amends section 2 of P.L.1941, c.151
30 (C.4:19-15.2) to exempt a person or group temporarily caring for a
31 dog placed in a foster home as part of a formalized training to be a
32 guide, service, or hearing ear dog from applying for and procuring a
33 license and registration tag for the dog while the dog is placed in
34 the foster home. Currently, an owner or keeper of a dog, 7 months
35 of age or older, is required to apply for and procure a dog license
36 and a registration tag.

37 The bill also amends section 3 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.3)
38 to specify that dogs temporarily placed in foster homes as part of a
39 formalized training to be guide, service, or hearing ear dogs are not
40 be required to be licensed and registered while placed in foster
41 homes. Current law requires that all dogs, including guide, service,
42 or hearing ear dogs, are licensed and registered.

43 Finally, the bill deletes the term "handicapped" and replaces it
44 with "developmental disabilities" to reflect person-first language.