

SENATE, No. 2849

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 26, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblywoman AURA DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

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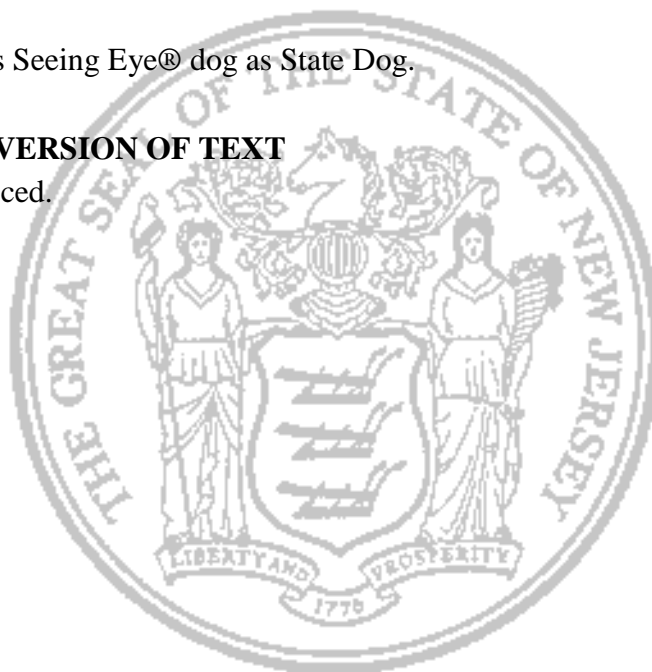
**Senator Greenstein, Assemblymen DePhillips, Rooney, Assemblywomen
Murphy, Jasey and Assemblyman Freiman**

SYNOPSIS

Designates Seeing Eye® dog as State Dog.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/14/2020)

1 **AN ACT** designating the Seeing Eye® dog as the New Jersey State
2 Dog and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Service dogs help persons with visual impairment achieve
6 greater independence, dignity, and self-confidence, and the dogs
7 themselves are known for their intelligence, loyalty, and gentle
8 temperament; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The Seeing Eye is one of the world’s premier service dog
10 schools, so much so that the phrase “Seeing Eye® dog” is
11 synonymous with service dogs around the world; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The Seeing Eye is a New Jersey institution that has been
13 headquartered in the State since 1931; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The current Seeing Eye headquarters includes a 60-acre
15 training center in Morristown and a 330-acre breeding center in
16 Chester; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The Seeing Eye has matched over 17,000 people with dogs
18 since its inception; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 1,770 people in the United States and
20 Canada are currently paired with Seeing Eye® dogs; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The Seeing Eye receives no funding from the State or
22 federal governments, and is entirely supported by contributions
23 from individuals, foundations, corporations, bequests, and other
24 planned gifts; and

25 **WHEREAS**, The Seeing Eye is especially useful to veterans, giving
26 them priority in its application process; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The Seeing Eye charges veterans only a nominal one dollar
28 tuition fee for services, which covers the cost of the dog,
29 instruction, transportation, room, board, equipment, and follow-up;
30 and

31 **WHEREAS**, These remarkable dogs are trained to guide their handlers
32 around obstacles, alert their handlers to changes in elevation and
33 tripping hazards, and to safely navigate street crossings; and

34 **WHEREAS**, Seeing Eye® dogs are unique among service dogs in their
35 capacity for “intelligent disobedience.” Seeing Eye® dogs are
36 taught to ignore commands that might jeopardize the safety of the
37 handler, such as crossing against traffic or stepping off a vacant
38 subway platform; and

39 **WHEREAS**, Designating the Seeing Eye® dog as the State Dog would
40 honor Seeing Eye® dogs and the impact they have on their handlers
41 and on society at large, and celebrate the charitable spirit of The
42 Seeing Eye; now, therefore,

43
44 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
45 *of New Jersey:*

46
47 1. The Seeing Eye® dog is designated as the New Jersey State
48 Dog.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

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STATEMENT

5

6 This bill designates the Seeing Eye® dog as the State Dog of
7 New Jersey.

8 The Seeing Eye is one of the world's premier service dog
9 training organizations and has been headquartered in New Jersey
10 since 1931.

11 With facilities in Morristown and Chester, the Seeing Eye pairs
12 specially trained service dogs with persons with visual impairment,
13 greatly improving the person's independence and mobility. The
14 Seeing Eye is particularly useful to veterans, giving them priority in
15 its application process and charging them only a nominal one dollar
16 fee for services, which covers the cost of the dog, instruction,
17 transportation, room, board, equipment, and follow-up.

18 Seeing Eye® dogs are unique among service dogs in their
19 capacity for "intelligent disobedience." They are taught to ignore
20 commands that might jeopardize the safety of the handler, such as
21 crossing against traffic or stepping off a vacant subway platform.
22 They are also renowned for their intelligence, loyalty, and gentle
23 temperament.

24 Twelve states have designated state dogs. Accordingly, New
25 Jersey should designate the Seeing Eye® dog as the State Dog of
26 New Jersey in order to honor Seeing Eye® dogs and the impact
27 they have on their handlers and on society at large, and celebrate
28 the charitable spirit of The Seeing Eye.