

By Senator Bennett

21-02389A-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to service animals; amending s. 413.08,  
3 F.S.; expanding the definition of "service animal" to  
4 include any animal that is trained, in the process of  
5 being trained, or being raised for the purpose of being  
6 trained at a future date to perform tasks for an  
7 individual with a disability; providing that any person  
8 who is training or raising an animal for the purpose of  
9 future training as a service animal has the same rights  
10 and privileges with respect to access to public facilities  
11 and the same liability for damage as is provided for  
12 persons accompanied by service animals; providing that  
13 such rights and privileges extend to a volunteer who  
14 raises puppies for the purpose of future training as  
15 service animals if certain conditions are met; providing  
16 an effective date.

17  
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and subsection  
21 (8) of section 413.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

22 413.08 Rights of an individual with a disability; use of a  
23 service animal; discrimination in public employment or housing  
24 accommodations; penalties.--

25 (1) As used in this section and s. 413.081, the term:

26 (d) "Service animal" means any an animal that is trained,  
27 in the process of being trained, or being raised for the purpose  
28 of being trained at a future date to perform tasks for an  
29 individual with a disability. The tasks may include, but are not

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30 limited to, guiding a person who is visually impaired or blind,  
31 alerting a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, pulling a  
32 wheelchair, assisting with mobility or balance, alerting and  
33 protecting a person who is having a seizure, retrieving objects,  
34 or performing other special tasks. A service animal is not a pet.

35 (8) (a) Any trainer of a service animal, while engaged in  
36 the training of such an animal, including any person who is  
37 raising an animal for the purpose of future training as a service  
38 animal, has the same rights and privileges with respect to access  
39 to public facilities and the same liability for damage as is  
40 provided for those persons described in subsection (3)  
41 accompanied by service animals.

42 (b) Any volunteer who raises puppies for the purpose of  
43 future training as service animals has the same rights and  
44 privileges with respect to access to public facilities and the  
45 same liability for damage as is provided for those persons  
46 accompanied by service animals as described in subsection (3) if:

47 1. Such animal is held on a leash or is otherwise  
48 restrained and remains under the control of the volunteer  
49 training or raising such animal;

50 2. The volunteer training or raising such animal has on his  
51 or her person, and available for inspection, credentials from the  
52 accredited school for which the animal is being raised; and

53 3. Such animal is wearing a collar, leash, or other  
54 appropriate apparel or device identifying that animal with the  
55 accredited school for which it is being raised.

56 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.