

By the Committee on Community Affairs; and Senator Bennett

578-04958-08

20081496c1

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to service animals; amending s. 413.08,
3 F.S.; redefining the term "individual with a disability";
4 providing that any person, including a volunteer, who is
5 raising a puppy for the purpose of future training as a
6 service animal has the same rights and privileges with
7 respect to access to public facilities and the same
8 liability for damage as is provided for persons
9 accompanied by service animals if certain conditions are
10 met; providing an effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection
15 (8) of section 413.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

16 413.08 Rights of an individual with a disability; use of a
17 service animal; discrimination in public employment or housing
18 accommodations; penalties.--

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

20 (b) "Individual with a disability" means a person who has a
21 physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or
22 more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment,
23 or is regarded as having such an impairment ~~is deaf, hard of~~
24 ~~hearing, blind, visually impaired, or otherwise physically~~
25 ~~disabled. As used in this paragraph, the term:~~

26 ~~1. "Hard of hearing" means an individual who has suffered a~~
27 ~~permanent hearing impairment that is severe enough to necessitate~~
28 ~~the use of amplification devices to discriminate speech sounds in~~
29 ~~verbal communication.~~

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30 ~~2. "Physically disabled" means any person who has a~~
31 ~~physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major~~
32 ~~life activities.~~

33 (8) (a) Any trainer of a service animal, while engaged in
34 the training of such an animal, has the same rights and
35 privileges with respect to access to public facilities and the
36 same liability for damage as is provided for those persons
37 described in subsection (3) accompanied by service animals.

38 (b) Any individual, including any volunteer, who raises a
39 puppy for the purpose of future training as a service animal has
40 the same rights and privileges with respect to access to public
41 facilities and the same liability for damage as is provided for
42 those persons accompanied by service animals as described in
43 subsection (3) if:

44 1. Such animal is held on a leash or is otherwise
45 restrained and remains under the control of the individual
46 training or raising such animal;

47 2. The individual training or raising such animal has on
48 his or her person, and available for inspection, credentials from
49 the service dog training program for which the animal is being
50 raised; and

51 3. Such animal is wearing a collar, leash, or other
52 appropriate apparel or device identifying that animal with the
53 service dog training program for which it is being raised.

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