

HB 917

2008

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

16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18
 19 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and subsection
 20 (8) of section 413.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

21 413.08 Rights of an individual with a disability; use of a
 22 service animal; discrimination in public employment or housing
 23 accommodations; penalties.--

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

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

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29 limited to, guiding a person who is visually impaired or blind,
30 alerting a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, pulling a
31 wheelchair, assisting with mobility or balance, alerting and
32 protecting a person who is having a seizure, retrieving objects,
33 or performing other special tasks. A service animal is not a
34 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
38 service animal, has the same rights and privileges with respect
39 to access to public facilities and the same liability for damage
40 as is provided for those persons described in subsection (3)
41 accompanied by service animals.

42 (b) Any volunteer who raises puppies for the purposes 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 described in subsection (3) accompanied by service animals 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
51 his or her person, and available for inspection, credentials
52 from the accredited school for which the animal is being raised;
53 and

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

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