

1 SB485
2 139838-1
3 By Senator Ward
4 RFD: Children, Youth Affairs, and Human Resources
5 First Read: 05-APR-12

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, service animals are
9 permitted to accompany certain students with
10 disabilities while attending public or private
11 school.

12 This bill would require the service animal
13 to be certified by a trainer and a service
14 certificate to be provided to the principal or
15 headmaster of the school prior to the service
16 animal being allowed on school property.

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18 A BILL
19 TO BE ENTITLED
20 AN ACT

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22 To amend Section 21-7-4, Code of Alabama 1975, as
23 amended by Act 2011-578, 2011 Regular Session (Acts 2011, p.
24 1251), relating to service animals, to require the service
25 animal to be certified by a trainer and a service certificate

1 to be provided to the principal or headmaster of the school
2 prior to the service animal being allowed on school property.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. Section 21-7-4 of the Code of Alabama
5 1975, as amended by Act 2011-578, 2011 Regular Session (Acts
6 2011, p. 1251), is amended to read as follows:

7 "§21-7-4.

8 "(a) For the purposes of this section, the term
9 service animal means any dog that is individually trained to
10 do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with
11 a disability.

12 "(b) Every person with a disability, including a
13 person who is totally or partially blind, hearing-impaired, or
14 diagnosed on the autism spectrum shall have the right to be
15 accompanied by a service animal in any public place, including
16 a public or private school, and any of the places listed in
17 Section 21-7-3. The person may not be required to pay an extra
18 charge for the service animal.

19 "(c) The work or tasks performed by a service animal
20 must be directly related to the handler's disability.

21 "(d) A person training a service animal shall be
22 entitled to the same privileges granted to a person with a
23 disability pursuant to subsection (b).

24 "(e) In the case of a disabled child, including a
25 child diagnosed on the autism spectrum, any aide assigned to

1 assist the child shall be trained with the service animal in
2 basic commands in order to assist the child as a team.

3 "(f) This section does not relieve a person
4 accompanied by a service animal from liability for any damages
5 done to the premises or facilities by the service animal.

6 "(g) Before a service animal may be allowed in a
7 public or private K-12 school, the service animal shall be
8 certified by a trainer and a service certificate shall be
9 provided to the principal or headmaster of the school."

10 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
11 first day of the third month following its passage and
12 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.