

**Service Animal Amendments**  
2026 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
**Chief Sponsor: Karianne Lisonbee**  
Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE**

**Committee Note:**

The Judiciary Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 10 voting for 1 voting against 5 absent

**General Description:**

This bill addresses provisions regarding service animals.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- requires the Division of Corporations and Commercial Code, on a website accessible to the public, to publish the contact information and internet website link of the protection and advocacy agency designated by the governor that can assist members of the public in understanding the current laws and regulations regarding service animals and public accommodation; and
- amends the penalty for the criminal offense of injuring, harassing, or endangering a service animal.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**13-1a-6**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 378

**76-13-211**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 173

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **13-1a-6** is amended to read:

**13-1a-6 . Powers and responsibilities of Division of Corporations and Commercial Code -- Document retention.**

- (1) The Division of Corporations and Commercial Code shall have the power and authority reasonably necessary to enable it to efficiently administer the laws and rules for which it is responsible and to perform the duties imposed upon it by law.
- (2) The division has authority under Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to make rules and procedures for the processing, retention, and disposal of filed documents to efficiently utilize electronic and computerized document image storage and retrieval.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 63A-12-105, original documents filed in the division offices may not be considered property of the state if electronic image reproductions thereof which comply with the provisions of Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act, are retained by the division.
- (4) The division shall publish on a website accessible to the public the contact information and internet website link of the protection and advocacy agency designated by the governor that can assist members of the public in understanding the current laws and regulations regarding service animals and public accommodation.

Section 2. Section **76-13-211** is amended to read:

**76-13-211 . Injuring, harassing, or endangering a service animal.**

- (1)(a) As used in this section:
- (i) "Disability" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26B-6-801.
  - (ii) "Search and rescue dog" means a dog:
    - (A) with documented training to locate individuals who are:
      - (I) lost, missing, or injured; or
      - (II) trapped under debris as the result of a natural or man-made event; and
    - (B) affiliated with an established search and rescue dog organization.
  - (iii) "Service animal" means:
    - (A) a service animal as that term is defined in Section 26B-6-801; or
    - (B) a search and rescue dog.
- (b) Terms defined in Sections 76-1-101.5, 76-13-101, and 76-13-201 apply to this section.
- (2) An actor commits injuring, harassing, or endangering a service animal if the actor:
- (a) ~~knowingly,~~ intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes substantial bodily injury or death to a service animal;
  - (b) owns, keeps, harbors, or exercises control over an animal and knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly fails to exercise sufficient control over the animal to

prevent the animal from:

- (i) causing substantial bodily injury to or the death of a service animal;
- (ii) causing a service animal's subsequent inability to function as a service animal as a result of the animal's attacking, chasing, or harassing the service animal; or
- (iii) chasing or harassing a service animal while the service animal is carrying out the service animal's functions as a service animal, to the extent that the animal temporarily interferes with the service animal's ability to carry out the service animal's functions; or

(c) chases or harasses a service animal.

(3)[(a)] A violation of Subsection [(2)(a), (2)(b)(i), or (2)(b)(ii)] (2) is a [class-A misdemeanor] third degree felony.

[(b) A violation of Subsection (2)(b)(iii) or (2)(c) is a class B misdemeanor.]

(4)(a) A service animal is exempt from quarantine or other animal control ordinances if the service animal bites an individual while the service animal is subject to an offense under Subsection (2).

(b) The owner of the service animal or the individual with a disability whom the service animal serves shall make the service animal available for examination at a reasonable time and shall notify the local health officer if the service animal exhibits any abnormal behavior.

(5) In addition to any other penalty, an actor convicted of a violation of this section is liable for restitution to the owner of the service animal or the individual with a disability whom the service animal serves for the replacement, training, and veterinary costs incurred as a result of the violation of this section.

(6) If the act committed under this section amounts to an offense subject to a greater penalty under another provision of Title 76, Utah Criminal Code, than is provided under this section, this section does not prohibit prosecution and sentencing for the more serious offense.

### Section 3. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.