

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS AMENDMENTS

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan

Senate Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to animals that provide support for individuals with disabilities.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines "assistance animal";
- ▶ amends housing and criminal provisions relating to the use of a service animal or an assistance animal; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

62A-5b-101, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 22

62A-5b-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 94

62A-5b-103, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 22

62A-5b-104, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 389

62A-5b-105, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 22



28 **62A-5b-106**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 22



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

31 Section 1. Section **62A-5b-101** is amended to read:

32 **CHAPTER 5b. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF AN INDIVIDUAL**
33 **WITH A DISABILITY**

34 **62A-5b-101. Title.**

35 This chapter is known as "Rights and Privileges of [~~a Person~~] an Individual with a
36 Disability."

37 Section 2. Section **62A-5b-102** is amended to read:

38 **62A-5b-102. Definitions.**

39 As used in this chapter:

40 (1) "Assistance animal" means an animal, other than a service animal, that qualifies as
41 a reasonable accommodation under federal law for an individual with a disability.

42 [~~(1)~~] (2) "Disability" has the same meaning as defined in 42 U.S.C. 12102 of the
43 Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, as may be amended in the future, and 28 C.F.R.
44 36.104 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as may be amended in the future.

45 [~~(2)~~] (3) "Restaurant":

46 (a) includes any coffee shop, cafeteria, luncheonette, soda fountain, dining room, or
47 fast-food service where food is prepared or served for immediate consumption; and

48 (b) does not include:

49 (i) any retail establishment whose primary business or function is the sale of fuel or
50 food items for off-premise, but not immediate, consumption; and

51 (ii) except for a dinner theater, a theater that sells food items.

52 [~~(3)~~] (4) (a) "Service animal" includes any dog that:

53 (i) is trained, or is in training, to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an
54 individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other
55 mental disability;

56 (ii) performs work or tasks, or is in training to perform work or tasks, that are directly
57 related to the individual's disability, including:

58 (A) assisting an individual who is blind or has low vision with navigation or other

59 tasks;

60 (B) alerting an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or

61 sounds;

62 (C) providing non-violent protection or rescue work;

63 (D) pulling a wheelchair;

64 (E) assisting an individual during a seizure;

65 (F) alerting an individual to the presence of an allergen;

66 (G) retrieving an item for the individual;

67 (H) providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to an
68 individual with a mobility disability; or

69 (I) helping an individual with a psychiatric or neurological disability by preventing or
70 interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

71 (b) "Service animal" does not include:

72 (i) an animal other than a dog, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained; or

73 (ii) an animal used solely to provide:

74 (A) a crime deterrent;

75 (B) emotional support;

76 (C) well-being;

77 (D) comfort; or

78 (E) companionship.

79 Section 3. Section **62A-5b-103** is amended to read:

80 **62A-5b-103. Rights and privileges of an individual with a disability.**

81 (1) [~~A person~~] An individual with a disability has the same rights and privileges in the
82 use of highways, streets, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, and other
83 public areas as [~~a person~~] an individual who is not [~~a person~~] an individual with a disability.

84 (2) [~~A person~~] An individual with a disability has equal rights to accommodations,
85 advantages, and facilities offered by common carriers, including air carriers, railroad carriers,
86 motor buses, motor vehicles, water carriers, and all other modes of public conveyance in this
87 state.

88 (3) [~~A person~~] An individual with a disability has equal rights to accommodations,
89 advantages, and facilities offered by hotels, motels, lodges, and all other places of public

90 accommodation in this state, and to places of amusement or resort to which the public is
91 invited.

92 (4) (a) [~~A person~~] An individual with a disability has equal rights and access to public
93 and private housing accommodations offered for rent, lease, or other compensation in this state.

94 (b) This chapter does not require a person renting, leasing, or selling private housing or
95 real property to modify the housing or property in order to accommodate [~~a person~~] an
96 individual with a disability or to provide a higher degree of care for that [~~person~~] individual
97 than for someone who is not [~~a person~~] an individual with a disability.

98 (c) A person renting, leasing, or selling private housing or real property to [~~a person~~] an
99 individual with a disability shall comply with the provisions of Section ~~62A-5b-104~~ [~~regarding~~
100 ~~the right of the person to be accompanied by a service animal specially trained for that~~
101 ~~purpose~~].

102 Section 4. Section ~~62A-5b-104~~ is amended to read:

103 **~~62A-5b-104. Right to be accompanied by service animal or assistance animal --~~**
104 **~~Security deposits -- Discrimination -- Liability -- Identification.~~**

105 (1) (a) [~~A person~~] An individual with a disability has the right to be accompanied by a
106 service animal, unless the service animal is a danger or nuisance to others as interpreted under
107 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12102:

108 (i) in any of the places specified in Section ~~62A-5b-103~~; and

109 (ii) without additional charge for the service animal.

110 (b) This section does not prohibit an owner or lessor of private housing
111 accommodations from charging a person, including [~~a person~~] an individual with a disability, a
112 reasonable deposit as security for any damage or wear and tear that might be caused by a
113 service animal or assistance animal if the owner or lessor would charge a similar deposit to
114 other persons for potential wear and tear.

115 (c) An owner or lessor of private housing accommodations may not, in any manner,
116 discriminate against [~~a person~~] an individual with a disability on the basis of the [~~person's~~]
117 individual's possession of a service animal or assistance animal.

118 (2) [~~A person~~] An individual who is not [~~a person~~] an individual with a disability has
119 the right to be accompanied by an animal that is in training to become a service animal or a
120 police service canine, as defined in Section ~~53-16-102~~:

- 121 (a) in any of the places specified in Section 62A-5b-103; and
- 122 (b) without additional charge for the animal.
- 123 (3) ~~[A person]~~ An individual with a disability is liable for any loss or damage caused or
- 124 inflicted to the premises by the ~~[person's]~~ individual's service animal or assistance animal.
- 125 (4) A person accompanied by a service animal is encouraged to identify the animal by
- 126 exhibiting one or more of the following:
- 127 (a) the animal's laminated identification card;
- 128 (b) the animal's service vest; or
- 129 (c) another form of identification.

130 Section 5. Section 62A-5b-105 is amended to read:

131 **62A-5b-105. Policy of state to employ individuals with a disability.**

132 It is the policy of this state that ~~[a person]~~ an individual with a disability shall be
133 employed in the state service, the service of the political subdivisions of the state, in the public
134 schools, and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same
135 terms and conditions as ~~[a person]~~ an individual who is not ~~[a person]~~ an individual with a
136 disability, unless it is shown that the particular disability prevents the performance of the work
137 involved.

138 Section 6. Section 62A-5b-106 is amended to read:

139 **62A-5b-106. Interference with rights provided in this chapter --**
140 **Misrepresentation of rights under this chapter.**

- 141 (1) Any ~~[person,]~~ individual or agent of any ~~[person]~~ individual, who denies or
- 142 interferes with the rights provided in this chapter is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.
- 143 (2) ~~[A person]~~ An individual is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if:
- 144 (a) the ~~[person]~~ individual intentionally and knowingly falsely represents to another
- 145 person that an animal is a service animal ~~[as defined in Section 62A-5b-102, or]~~ or an
- 146 assistance animal;
- 147 (b) the ~~[person]~~ individual knowingly and intentionally misrepresents a material fact to
- 148 a health care provider for the purpose of obtaining documentation from the health care provider
- 149 necessary to designate an animal as a service animal ~~[as defined in Section 62A-5b-102.]~~ or an
- 150 assistance animal; or
- 151 (c) the individual, except for an individual with a disability, uses an animal to gain

152 treatment or benefits only provided for an individual with a disability.

153 (3) This section does not affect the enforceability of any criminal law, including

154 Subsection [76-6-501\(2\)](#).

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel