

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1687

H.P. 1244

House of Representatives, March 20, 2001

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**An Act Regarding People with Disabilities and the Use of Service  
Animals.**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative PARADIS of Frenchville.  
Cosponsored by Senator LONGLEY of Waldo and  
Representatives: DESMOND of Mapleton, FULLER of Manchester, KANE of Saco,  
LESSARD of Topsham, McGOWAN of Pittsfield, SKOGLUND of St. George, SMITH of  
Van Buren, Senator: MARTIN of Aroostook.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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**Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1312, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 611, §1, is further amended to read:

**3. Guide and personal care dogs.** Every totally or partially blind or otherwise physically disabled person has the right to be accompanied by a guide or personal care dog, especially trained for the purpose, in any of the places listed in subsection 2 without being required to pay an extra charge for the guide or personal care dog if the requirements of this subsection are met; however, the person is liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by such dog.

In order to qualify for the right to be accompanied by a guide or personal care dog as provided in this subsection, a person must possess the following:

- A. Written certification from a physician that that person needs the assistance of a guide or personal care dog; and
- B. Written certification from the person or organization that trained the guide or personal care dog used by that person that that dog is trained as a guide or personal care dog.

**Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §1312, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 611, §3, is further amended to read:

**5. Housing accommodations; persons with guide or personal care animals.** Every blind or visually handicapped or otherwise physically disabled individual who has a sight-assistance or assistance animal, such as a guide or personal care dog, is entitled to full and equal access to all housing accommodations provided for in this section if the requirements of this subsection are met. Blind or visually impaired or otherwise physically disabled individuals may not be required to pay extra compensation to keep sight-assistance or personal care animals. A blind or visually impaired or otherwise physically disabled person is liable for any damages done to the premises by the animal.

In order to qualify for the right to be accompanied by a guide or personal care animal as provided in this subsection, a person must possess the following:

- A. Written certification from a physician that that person needs the assistance of a guide or personal care animal; and
- B. Written certification from the person or organization

2 that trained the guide or personal care animal used by that  
3 person that that animal is trained as a guide or personal  
4 care animal.

6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill provides that in order to qualify for the right to  
9 be accompanied by a guide or personal care animal, a person must  
10 possess written certification from a physician that that person  
11 needs the assistance of a guide or personal care animal and  
12 written certification from the person or organization that  
13 trained the guide or personal care animal used by that person  
14 that that animal is trained as a guide or personal care animal.