

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
122ND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 163, L.D. 537, Bill, "An Act Relating to Animals in Food Stores and Restaurants"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §3966, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 625, §94, is amended to read:

**§3966. Animals in food stores**

It is unlawful for any person, other than the owner or manager, to bring any an animal into a store where food is sold for human consumption or into a restaurant where food is prepared and served on the premises. This section ~~shall~~ does not apply to any a person requiring the services of a ~~seeing-eye-dog~~ service animal.

For the purposes of this section, "service animal" means an animal that has been prescribed for an individual with a disability by a physician, psychiatrist or psychologist and a guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair or fetching items.'

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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## SUMMARY

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This amendment replaces the bill.

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This amendment retains the current criminal provision of bringing an animal into a store where food is sold for human consumption or into a restaurant where food is prepared and served on the premises, but updates the exception to cover all service animals, not just seeing-eye dogs. The definition of "service animal" from the rules adopted by the Maine Human Rights Commission is included.

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