

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/8/07

L.D. 289
(Filing No. H-472)

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 233, L.D. 289, Bill, "An Act To Revise the Definition of Service Dog"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Labor To Convene a Task Force To Evaluate and Recommend Revisions to the Definition of Service Dog'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Task force to evaluate and revise the statutory definition of service dog; membership. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Labor shall convene a task force to evaluate and recommend changes to the statutory definition of service dog in the Maine Revised Statutes. The task force must be staffed and coordinated by the Department of Labor and must include the following stakeholders: the director of the animal welfare program within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; a representative from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation; representatives from both nonprofit and for-profit service dog training schools; a representative from Pine Tree Guide Dog Users, or its successor; a representative from the Maine Town and City Clerks' Association, or its successor; a representative from the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, or its successor; a representative from the Disability Rights Center, or its successor; a representative from the Maine Center on Deafness, or its successor; a representative from the Assistance Canine Educations and Support, Inc., or its successor; and a representative of the medical community; and be it further

Sec. 2. Task force duties. Resolved: That the task force shall review the following issues within the parameters of applicable federal and state laws: proposed changes to the statutory definition of service dog; criteria or documentation that town clerks must use to verify a dog as a service animal to qualify for the license fee exemption; proposed revisions to the Maine Revised Statutes to clarify the rights of and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 protections for people with disabilities who use service animals; proposed revisions
2 necessary to the Maine Revised Statutes to provide clarification to business owners of
3 their rights and responsibilities concerning service animals; and proposals for any specific
4 criteria that may be required for consideration by medical practitioners when prescribing
5 the use of a service animal; and be it further

6 **Sec. 3. Reporting date established. Resolved:** That no later than January 15,
7 2008 the Commissioner of Labor shall submit a report with findings and
8 recommendations following the review under section 2 including any recommended
9 legislative changes to the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic
10 Development. The Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic
11 Development is authorized to submit legislation on the subject matter of the report to the
12 Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.'

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. It directs the Commissioner of
15 Labor to convene a task force to evaluate and recommend changes to the statutory
16 definition of service dog in the Maine Revised Statutes. It provides that the task force
17 must be staffed and coordinated by the Department of Labor and must include a variety
18 of state and local stakeholders to review the following issues within the parameters of
19 applicable federal and state laws: criteria or documentation that town clerks must use to
20 verify a dog as a service animal to qualify for the license fee exemption; proposed
21 revisions to the Maine Revised Statutes to clarify the rights of and protections for people
22 with disabilities who use service animals; proposed revisions necessary to the Maine
23 Revised Statutes to provide clarification to business owners of their rights and
24 responsibilities concerning service animals; and proposals for any specific criteria that
25 may be required for consideration by medical practitioners when prescribing the use of a
26 service animal. The amendment requires the commissioner to submit a report following
27 this review by January 15, 2008 to the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research
28 and Economic Development and authorizes that committee to submit legislation on the
29 subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 289

LR 830(02)

An Act To Revise the Definition of Service Dog

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"
Committee: Business, Research and Economic Development
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund
Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation can be absorbed within each agency's existing budgeted resources.