

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 872

Date: 6/9/15

Majority

(Filing No. H-370)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 591, L.D. 872, “Resolve, Establishing the Study Commission To Ensure Integrity in the Use of Service Animals”

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

'Resolve, Establishing a Task Force To Ensure Integrity in the Use of Service Animals'

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

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this resolve establishes a task force to study training and certification requirements of service animals, methods of disseminating information about service animals to the public and documentation of training and certification of service animals; and

Whereas, the business of the task force must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that it may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Task force to ensure integrity in the use of service animals. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall convene a task force of interested parties to study:

1. Training requirements for service animals;
2. Certifying organizations and existing certification requirements for service animals and development of new state-based certification requirements, if needed;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROFS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 591, L.D. 872

1 3. The necessity of educating the public about service animals and methods of
2 disseminating information about service animals;

3 4. Documentation of training and certification of service animals and the
4 development of additional documentation and proofs, if needed; and

5 5. Housing issues related to service animals; and be it further

6 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of
7 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall invite the following individuals to
8 participate in the task force: 2 trainers of service or therapy animals, a restaurant owner
9 or operator, a member of the business community, a member of the Maine Human Rights
10 Commission or a designee selected by the commission, a member from the public
11 education system, a member of the Maine Real Estate Managers Association, a
12 representative of the Central Maine Apartment Owners Association or the Maine
13 Apartment Owners and Managers Association, a resident of the State with physical
14 disabilities, a resident of the State with nonphysical disabilities, an attorney who
15 specializes in disability law with experience in both state and federal laws governing
16 service animals and the state accessibility coordinator from the Department of Labor,
17 Bureau of Rehabilitation Services; and be it further

18 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 2, 2015, the
19 Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall report the task force's
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee
21 on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The Joint Standing Committee on
22 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may submit a bill related to the subject matter of
23 the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

24 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
25 legislation takes effect when approved.'

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This amendment, which is the majority report, replaces the resolve. It directs the
28 Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a task force to
29 ensure integrity in the use of service animals. It establishes the duties of the task force
30 and guidelines for its membership and requires the submission of a report to the Joint
31 Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which is given authority
32 to report out a bill based on the report.

33 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

34 (See attached)



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 872

LR 905(02)

Resolve, Establishing the Study Commission To Ensure Integrity in the Use of Service Animals

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A (H-370)

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a task force concerning service animals and making a report to the Legislature are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. The additional costs to the Maine Human Rights Commission to serve on the task force are expected to be minor.