

1 HB620  
2 139838-1  
3 By Representative Hubbard (J)  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 03-APR-12

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, service animals are  
9 permitted to accompany certain students with  
10 disabilities while attending public or private  
11 school.

12 This bill would require the service animal  
13 to be certified by a trainer and a service  
14 certificate to be provided to the principal or  
15 headmaster of the school prior to the service  
16 animal being allowed on school property.

17  
18 A BILL  
19 TO BE ENTITLED  
20 AN ACT

21  
22 To amend Section 21-7-4, Code of Alabama 1975, as  
23 amended by Act 2011-578, 2011 Regular Session (Acts 2011, p.  
24 1251), relating to service animals, to require the service  
25 animal to be certified by a trainer and a service certificate  
26 to be provided to the principal or headmaster of the school  
27 prior to the service animal being allowed on school property.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

2 Section 1. Section 21-7-4 of the Code of Alabama  
3 1975, as amended by Act 2011-578, 2011 Regular Session (Acts  
4 2011, p. 1251), is amended to read as follows:

5 "§21-7-4.

6 "(a) For the purposes of this section, the term  
7 service animal means any dog that is individually trained to  
8 do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with  
9 a disability.

10 "(b) Every person with a disability, including a  
11 person who is totally or partially blind, hearing-impaired, or  
12 diagnosed on the autism spectrum shall have the right to be  
13 accompanied by a service animal in any public place, including  
14 a public or private school, and any of the places listed in  
15 Section 21-7-3. The person may not be required to pay an extra  
16 charge for the service animal.

17 "(c) The work or tasks performed by a service animal  
18 must be directly related to the handler's disability.

19 "(d) A person training a service animal shall be  
20 entitled to the same privileges granted to a person with a  
21 disability pursuant to subsection (b).

22 "(e) In the case of a disabled child, including a  
23 child diagnosed on the autism spectrum, any aide assigned to  
24 assist the child shall be trained with the service animal in  
25 basic commands in order to assist the child as a team.

1                   "(f) This section does not relieve a person  
2 accompanied by a service animal from liability for any damages  
3 done to the premises or facilities by the service animal.

4                   "(g) Before a service animal may be allowed in a  
5 public or private K-12 school, the service animal shall be  
6 certified by a trainer and a service certificate shall be  
7 provided to the principal or headmaster of the school."

8                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
9 first day of the third month following its passage and  
10 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.