

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 541

BY REPRESENTATIVES MICKEY GUILLORY AND WOOTON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HEALTH SERVICES: Authorizes guide dogs in training access to certain areas

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 21:52, relative to guide dogs; to provide for the access of guide
3 dogs in training to public areas; to provide for trainers of guide dogs; and to provide
4 for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 21:52 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §52. Guide or service dog, rights and privileges of owners and trainers; penalties for
8 violations

9 A. Any blind person, visually handicapped person, deaf person, hearing
10 impaired person, or otherwise physically disabled person who is accompanied by a
11 properly controlled dog which such person has been taught to use as a guide or for
12 service at a qualified dog guide or service school, or any person who is qualified to
13 provide training for a guide dog or service animal and is accompanied by a guide dog
14 in training, is entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities,
15 and privileges of all public accommodation, amusement, or resort, and other places
16 to which the general public is invited, and shall be entitled to take such dog into such
17 conveyances and places, subject only to the accommodations and limitations
18 applicable to all persons not so accompanied, provided that the dog shall not occupy
19 a seat in any public conveyance.

20 B. Any person, firm, or corporation, or agent, representative, or employee
21 of any person, firm, or corporation who deprives any blind person, visually

1 handicapped person, deaf person, hearing impaired person, or otherwise physically
2 disabled person, or any person who is accompanied by a guide dog in training of any
3 right conferred by Subsection A of this Section, shall be deemed guilty of a
4 misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined a sum not to exceed five
5 hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the parish jail for a period not to exceed ninety
6 days, or both, within the discretion of the judge; and for every such offense such
7 person shall forfeit and pay a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars to any person
8 aggrieved thereby, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction in the
9 parish where such offense was committed.

10 C. The provisions of Subsections A and B of this Section shall be
11 inapplicable unless the person, as described in Subsections A and B of this Section,
12 accompanied by a guide or service dog, shall furnish evidence as to the training of
13 the dog, which evidence shall be obtained from the training agency or school by
14 which the dog has been trained. If the person is accompanied by a guide dog in
15 training as described in Subsection A of this Section, that person shall furnish
16 evidence of his qualifications to provide training for a guide dog, or the provisions
17 of Subsections A and B of this Section shall be inapplicable.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Mickey Guillory

HB No. 541

Abstract: Allows guide dogs in training access to public areas if they are accompanied by a qualified guide dog trainer.

Present law provides that trained guide dogs may accompany certain persons in public areas if the person is able to furnish evidence that the guide dog has been trained at a qualified training school.

Proposed law retains present law but adds the provision that guide dogs in training may accompany a person in public if that person is a qualified dog trainer and is able to furnish evidence of his qualifications to train guide dogs.

Present law provides that anyone who denies certain persons accompanied by a trained guide dog the right to enter public areas shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$500, imprisoned in parish jail for no more than 90 days, or both.

Proposed law retains present law but adds the provision that anyone who denies a qualified dog trainer who is accompanied by a guide dog in training the right to enter public areas shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$500, imprisoned in parish jail for no more than 90 days, or both.

(Amends R.S. 21:52)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Clarifies that anyone who denies a person accompanied by a guide dog in training the right to enter a public area shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to criminal penalties.