



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 5288***

LCO No. 1766



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

***AN ACT ALIGNING STATE LAW WITH FEDERAL LAW CONCERNING SERVICE ANIMALS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 5-247b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) As used in this section, (1) "disability" means any one or more of  
4 the following, as defined in section 46a-51: (A) An intellectual disability,  
5 (B) physically disabled, (C) a mental disability, or (D) a learning  
6 disability; and (2) "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in  
7 section 22-345, as amended by this act.

8 (b) Each appointing authority shall grant to each full-time employee  
9 in a permanent position in [the state service or full-time employee of] a  
10 state or quasi-public agency who (1) [is blind or physically disabled] has  
11 a disability, and (2) has been employed for at least twelve consecutive  
12 months, the use of accumulated paid sick leave, not to exceed [fifteen]  
13 twenty days, to participate in training conducted by [a guide dog  
14 organization or assistance dog organization] an organization that trains

15 service animals, provided such organization is a member of a  
16 professional association of [guide dog or assistance dog] service animal  
17 schools, to prepare the employee to handle a [guide dog or assistance  
18 dog] service animal for the employee's own use. The appointing  
19 authority may require up to seven days' advance notice of an employee's  
20 intention to use such leave and may require the employee to provide  
21 reasonable documentation that such leave is being taken for the purpose  
22 permitted under this section.

23 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, (1)  
24 "disability" means any one or more of the following, as defined in  
25 section 46a-51 of the general statutes: (A) An intellectual disability, (B)  
26 physically disabled, (C) a mental disability, or (D) a learning disability;  
27 and (2) "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in section  
28 22-345 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

29 (b) Each chief elected official or chief executive officer of a  
30 municipality shall grant to each full-time employee in a permanent  
31 position who (1) has a disability, and (2) has been employed for at least  
32 twelve consecutive months, the use of accumulated paid sick leave, not  
33 to exceed twenty days, to participate in training conducted by an  
34 organization that trains service animals, provided such organization is  
35 a member of a professional association of service animal schools, to  
36 prepare the employee to handle a service animal for the employee's own  
37 use. The chief elected official or chief executive officer may require up  
38 to seven days' advance notice of an employee's intention to use such  
39 leave and may require the employee to provide reasonable  
40 documentation that such leave is being taken for the purpose permitted  
41 under this section.

42 Sec. 3. Subsection (f) of section 13b-119 of the general statutes is  
43 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
44 *2024*):

45 (f) A transportation network company driver shall: (1) Comply with  
46 all applicable laws regarding nondiscrimination against transportation

47 network company riders or potential transportation network company  
48 riders on the basis of age, color, creed, destination, intellectual or  
49 physical disability, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation or  
50 gender identity; (2) comply with all applicable laws relating to the  
51 accommodation of service animals and accommodate service animals  
52 without imposing additional charges for such accommodation; (3)  
53 comply with the policies adopted by the transportation network  
54 company pursuant to subsection (c) of section 13b-118 and subsections  
55 (d) and (e) of this section; (4) not impose additional charges for  
56 providing prearranged rides to persons with physical disabilities  
57 because of such disabilities; and (5) not solicit or accept a request for  
58 transportation unless the request is accepted through the transportation  
59 network company's digital network. For purposes of this subsection,  
60 "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-345, as  
61 amended by this act.

62 Sec. 4. Section 14-300 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
63 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
64 *1, 2024*):

65 (a) The traffic authority may designate, by appropriate official traffic  
66 control devices, as defined in section 14-297, or markers, or by lines  
67 upon the surface of the highway, such crosswalks and intersections as,  
68 in its opinion, constitute a danger to pedestrians crossing the highway  
69 including, but not limited to, specially marked crosswalks in the vicinity  
70 of schools, which crosswalks shall have distinctive markings, in  
71 accordance with the regulations of the Office of the State Traffic  
72 Administration, to denote use of such crosswalks by school children;  
73 and may maintain suitable signs located at intervals along highways,  
74 particularly where there are no sidewalks, directing pedestrians to walk  
75 facing vehicular traffic. As used in this section, "service animal" has the  
76 same meaning as provided in section 22-345, as amended by this act.

77 (b) At any intersection where special pedestrian-control signals  
78 bearing the words "Walk" or "Don't Walk" or the image of a walking  
79 person symbolizing "Walk" or an upraised hand symbolizing "Don't

80 Walk" are placed, pedestrians may cross the highway only as indicated  
81 by the signal. At any intersection where traffic is controlled by other  
82 traffic control signals or by police officers, pedestrians shall not cross the  
83 highway against a red or "Stop" signal and shall not cross at any place  
84 not a marked or unmarked crosswalk. A pedestrian started or starting  
85 across the highway or on any such crosswalk shall have the right-of-  
86 way over all vehicles, including those making turns, until such  
87 pedestrian has reached the opposite curb or safety zone.

88 (c) Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 14-300c, at any  
89 crosswalk marked as provided in subsection (a) of this section or any  
90 unmarked crosswalk, provided such crosswalks are not controlled by  
91 police officers or traffic control signals, each operator of a vehicle shall  
92 grant the right-of-way, and slow or stop such vehicle if necessary to so  
93 grant the right-of-way, to any pedestrian crossing the roadway within  
94 such crosswalk. For the purposes of this subsection, a pedestrian is  
95 "crossing the roadway within such crosswalk" when the pedestrian (1)  
96 is within any portion of the crosswalk, (2) steps to the curb at the  
97 entrance to the crosswalk and indicates his or her intent to cross the  
98 roadway by raising his or her hand and arm toward oncoming traffic,  
99 or (3) indicates his or her intent to cross the roadway by moving any  
100 part of his or her body or an extension thereof, including, but not limited  
101 to, a wheelchair, cane, walking stick, crutch, bicycle, electric bicycle,  
102 stroller, carriage, cart or leashed or harnessed dog, into the crosswalk at  
103 the entrance to the crosswalk. No operator of a vehicle approaching  
104 from the rear shall overtake and pass any vehicle, the operator of which  
105 has stopped at any crosswalk marked as provided in subsection (a) of  
106 this section or any unmarked crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross  
107 the roadway. The operator of any vehicle crossing a sidewalk shall yield  
108 the right-of-way to each pedestrian and all other traffic upon such  
109 sidewalk.

110 (d) The operator of a motor vehicle who approaches or comes into the  
111 immediate vicinity of a pedestrian who is blind, as defined in subsection  
112 (a) of section 1-1f, carrying a white cane or a white cane tipped with red,  
113 or a pedestrian being guided by a [guide dog] service animal, shall

114 reduce speed or stop, if necessary, to yield the right-of-way to such  
115 pedestrian. No person, except one who is blind, shall carry or use on any  
116 street or highway, or in any other public place, a cane or walking stick  
117 which is white in color or white, tipped with red.

118 (e) Any crosswalk designated by a traffic authority on or after  
119 October 1, 2010, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be  
120 required by such authority to have markings, signage, or any control  
121 signals deemed necessary by such authority to provide sufficient time  
122 for the safe crossing of pedestrians.

123 (f) The operator of any motor vehicle who violates this section shall  
124 be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

125 (g) In any civil action arising under subsection (c) or (d) of this section  
126 or sections 14-300b to 14-300d, inclusive, the doctrine of negligence per  
127 se shall not apply.

128 Sec. 5. Section 14-300i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
129 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

130 (a) As used in [subsection (b) of] this section, (1) "vulnerable user"  
131 means: (A) A pedestrian; (B) a highway worker; (C) a person riding or  
132 driving an animal; (D) a person riding a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an  
133 electric foot scooter; (E) a person using a skateboard, roller skates or in-  
134 line skates; (F) a person operating or riding on an agricultural tractor;  
135 (G) a person using a wheelchair or motorized chair; (H) a person who is  
136 blind and such person's service animal; and (I) a person operating (i) a  
137 commercial motor vehicle equipped with a garbage compactor, a  
138 detachable container or a curbside recycling body, (ii) a tank vehicle, (iii)  
139 a vehicle authorized by the United States government to carry mail, or  
140 (iv) a vehicle authorized by an express delivery carrier service, (2)  
141 "public way" includes any state or other public highway, road, street,  
142 avenue, alley, driveway, parkway or place, under the control of the state  
143 or any political subdivision of the state, dedicated, appropriated or  
144 opened to public travel or other use, (3) "substantial bodily harm" means  
145 bodily injury that involves a temporary but substantial disfigurement,

146 causes a temporary but substantial loss or impairment of the function of  
147 any bodily part or organ, or causes a fracture of any bodily part, [and]  
148 (4) "serious physical injury" has the same meaning as provided in  
149 section 53a-3, and (5) "service animal" has the same meaning as  
150 provided in section 22-345, as amended by this act.

151 (b) Any person operating a motor vehicle on a public way who fails  
152 to exercise reasonable care and causes substantial bodily harm to, or the  
153 serious physical injury or death, of a vulnerable user of a public way,  
154 provided such vulnerable user has shown reasonable care in such user's  
155 use of the public way, shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars.

156 Sec. 6. Section 22-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
157 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

158 Any person with a disability who is the owner or keeper of a dog  
159 [which] that has been trained as a service animal, is in training to  
160 become a service animal for such person, is in training to become a  
161 service animal or is enrolled in a program described in section 17a-22ee  
162 shall receive a license and tag for such dog from the town clerk of the  
163 town where such dog is owned or kept. Such license and tag shall be  
164 issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, and no fee  
165 shall be required of the owner or keeper of any such dog. When any  
166 such dog has not been previously licensed [,] by the town clerk to whom  
167 application is being made, and it is not obvious that the dog is a service  
168 animal, such town clerk may inquire of such owner or keeper whether  
169 the dog is a service animal required because of a disability and what  
170 work or task the dog has been trained to perform. Any person who has  
171 a dog placed with such person temporarily, including for breeding  
172 purposes, by a nonprofit organization established for the purpose of  
173 training or educating the dog as a service animal shall receive a license  
174 and tag for such dog from the town clerk of the town where such dog is  
175 kept. Such license and tag shall be issued in accordance with the  
176 provisions of section 22-340, and no fee shall be required for such license  
177 and tag, provided such person presents confirmation that such dog was  
178 placed with such person by such organization. As used in this section,

179 (1) "disability" means any one or more of the following, as defined in  
180 section 46a-51: (A) An intellectual disability, (B) physically disabled, (C)  
181 a mental disability, or (D) a learning disability; and (2) "service animal"  
182 has the same meaning as provided in 28 CFR 35.104, as amended from  
183 time to time, and includes a service animal in training.

184 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 22-354a of the general statutes is  
185 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
186 *2024*):

187 (c) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply to  
188 any lease or rental of any of the following animals provided such animal  
189 is used in accordance with any applicable provision of federal or state  
190 law or any municipal ordinance: (1) Any purebred dog that is rented for  
191 the purpose of breeding, pursuant to a written lease, when such lease is  
192 recorded with a national purebred dog registry and such lease is for a  
193 specific period of time and contains an end date for such lease, (2) any  
194 animal used in a spectator event, show, exhibition, motion picture,  
195 audiovisual media, including, but not limited to, any animal exhibition,  
196 any racing event, any field trial, polo or any rodeo, or (3) any working  
197 animal that is trained or utilized to perform tasks, including, but not  
198 limited to, [guide dogs] service animals, security dogs, law enforcement  
199 dogs and any assistance animal. For the purposes of this subsection,  
200 "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-345, as  
201 amended by this act.

202 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 22-357 of the general statutes is  
203 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
204 *2024*):

205 (a) As used in this section:

206 (1) "Law enforcement officer" means: Each officer, employee or other  
207 person otherwise paid by or acting as an agent of (A) the Division of  
208 State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
209 Protection; (B) the Office of the State Capitol Police; (C) a municipal  
210 police department; and (D) the Department of Correction;

211 (2) "Property" includes, but is not limited to, a companion animal, as  
212 defined in section 22-351a; [and]

213 (3) "The amount of such damage", with respect to a companion  
214 animal, includes expenses of veterinary care, the fair monetary value of  
215 the companion animal, including all training expenses for a [guide dog]  
216 service animal owned by a [blind person or an assistance dog owned by  
217 a deaf or mobility impaired] person with a disability and burial  
218 expenses for the companion animal; and

219 (4) "Service animal" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-  
220 345, as amended by this act.

221 Sec. 9. Subsection (c) of section 22-358 of the general statutes is  
222 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
223 *2024*):

224 (c) The commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal  
225 control officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional  
226 animal control officer may make any order concerning the restraint or  
227 disposal of any biting dog, cat or other animal as the commissioner or  
228 such officer deems necessary. Notice of any such order shall be given to  
229 the person bitten by such dog, cat or other animal within twenty-four  
230 hours. The owner of such animal shall pay all fees as set forth in section  
231 22-333. Any owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal who fails  
232 to comply with such order shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor. If  
233 an owner or keeper fails to comply with a restraining order made  
234 pursuant to this subsection, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any  
235 animal control officer, any municipal animal control officer or any  
236 regional animal control officer may seize the dog, cat or other animal to  
237 ensure such compliance and the owner or keeper shall be responsible  
238 for any expenses resulting from such seizure. Any person aggrieved by  
239 an order of any municipal animal control officer, the Chief Animal  
240 Control Officer, any animal control officer or any regional animal  
241 control officer may request a hearing before the commissioner within  
242 fourteen days of the issuance of such order. Any order issued pursuant



243 to this section that requires the restraint of an animal shall be effective  
244 upon its issuance and shall remain in effect during any appeal of such  
245 order to the commissioner. After such hearing, the commissioner may  
246 affirm, modify or revoke such order as the commissioner deems proper.  
247 Any dog owned by a police agency of the state or any of its political  
248 subdivisions is exempt from the provisions of this subsection when such  
249 dog is under the direct supervision, care and control of an assigned  
250 police officer, is currently vaccinated and is subject to routine veterinary  
251 care. Any [guide dog] service animal owned or in the custody and  
252 control of a [blind person or a person with a mobility impairment]  
253 person with a disability is exempt from the provisions of this subsection  
254 when such [guide dog] service animal is under the direct supervision,  
255 care and control of such person, is currently vaccinated and is subject to  
256 routine veterinary care. For the purposes of this subsection, "service  
257 animal" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-345, as  
258 amended by this act.

259       Sec. 10. Section 22-364b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
260 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
261 *1, 2024*):

262       The owner or keeper of a dog shall restrain and control such dog on  
263 a leash when such dog is not on the property of its owner or keeper and  
264 is in proximity to a person with a disability accompanied by a service  
265 animal, provided such service animal is readily identifiable as a service  
266 animal, is in the direct custody of such person and is licensed in  
267 accordance with section 22-345, as amended by this act. Any person who  
268 violates the provisions of this section shall have committed an  
269 infraction. If an owner or keeper of a dog violates the provisions of this  
270 section and, as a result of such violation, such dog attacks and injures  
271 the service animal, such owner or keeper shall be liable, as provided in  
272 section 22-357, as amended by this act, for any damage done to such  
273 service animal, and such liability shall include liability for any costs  
274 incurred by such person with a disability for the veterinary care,  
275 rehabilitation or replacement of the injured service animal and for  
276 reasonable attorney's fees. As used in this section, "service animal" has

277 the same meaning as provided in section 22-345, as amended by this act.

278 Sec. 11. Section 46a-44 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
279 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

280 (a) As used in this section, (1) "disability" means any one or more of  
281 the following, as defined in section 46a-51: (A) An intellectual disability,  
282 (B) physically disabled, (C) a mental disability, or (D) a learning  
283 disability; (2) "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in 28  
284 CFR 35.104, as amended from time to time, and includes a service  
285 animal in training; and (3) "person training an animal as a service  
286 animal" means a person who (A) (i) is employed by an organization that  
287 trains service animals, (ii) complies with the criteria for membership in  
288 a professional association of schools that train service animals, (iii) is  
289 authorized to engage in designated training activities, and (iv) carries  
290 photographic identification indicating such employment and  
291 authorization, or (B) volunteers for an organization that (i) trains service  
292 animals, and (ii) authorizes volunteers to raise animals to become  
293 service animals.

294 ~~[(a)]~~ (b) Any [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a  
295 disability or any person training [a dog as a guide dog for a blind person  
296 or an assistance dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person] an  
297 animal as a service animal to assist a person with a disability may travel  
298 on a train or on any other mode of public transportation, and may enter  
299 any other place of public accommodation [which] ~~that~~ caters or offers  
300 its services or facilities or goods to the general public, including but not  
301 limited to, any public building, inn, restaurant, hotel, motel, tourist  
302 cabin, place of amusement, resort or any facility of any such public  
303 accommodation, accompanied by such person's [guide dog or assistance  
304 dog] ~~service animal~~, and such person may keep such [dog] ~~service~~  
305 animal with him or her at all times in any such public accommodation  
306 or facility thereof at no extra charge, provided such [dog] ~~service animal~~  
307 shall be in the direct custody ~~and control~~ of such person. [and shall be  
308 wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar.]

309 [(b)] (c) Any [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a  
310 disability or any person training [a dog as a guide dog for a blind person  
311 or an assistance dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person] an  
312 animal as a service animal for a person with a disability shall be entitled  
313 to visit any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement or a  
314 dwelling as a guest of a lawful occupant thereof, accompanied by such  
315 person's [guide dog or assistance dog] service animal, and such person  
316 may keep such [dog] service animal with him or her at all times in such  
317 public accommodation, resort, amusement or dwelling at no extra  
318 charge, provided such [dog] service animal shall be in the direct custody  
319 and control of such person, [and shall be wearing a harness or an  
320 orange-colored leash and collar.] No such [blind, deaf or mobility  
321 impaired] person with a disability or person training [a dog as a guide  
322 dog or an assistance dog] an animal as a service animal shall be charged  
323 any fee not applicable alike to all guests, provided the owner of such  
324 [dog] service animal shall be liable for any damage done to the premises  
325 or facilities by such [dog] service animal. For the purposes of this  
326 subsection, (1) a "place of public accommodation, resort or amusement"  
327 means any establishment which caters or offers its services or facilities  
328 or goods to the general public, including, but not limited to, any  
329 commercial building lot, on which it is intended that a commercial  
330 property or building will be constructed or offered for sale or rent, and  
331 (2) "dwelling" means any building, structure, mobile manufactured  
332 home park or portion thereof which is occupied as, or designed or  
333 intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more families, and any  
334 vacant land which is offered for sale or lease for the construction or  
335 location thereon of any such building, structure, mobile manufactured  
336 home park or portion thereof, provided the provisions of this subsection  
337 shall not apply to (A) the rental of a room or rooms in a single-family  
338 dwelling unit, if the owner actually maintains and occupies part of such  
339 living quarters as the owner's residence, or (B) a unit in a dwelling  
340 containing living quarters occupied or intended to be occupied by no  
341 more than two families living independently of each other, if the owner  
342 actually maintains and occupies the other such living quarters as the  
343 owner's residence.

344 [(c)] (d) Any person who intentionally interferes with [a blind, deaf  
345 or mobility impaired person's use of a guide dog or an assistance dog]  
346 the use of a service animal by a person with a disability, including, but  
347 not limited to, any action intended to harass or annoy the [blind, deaf or  
348 mobility impaired] person with a disability, the person training [a dog  
349 as a guide dog or assistance dog or the guide dog or assistance dog] an  
350 animal as a service animal, or who denies the rights afforded to a [blind,  
351 deaf or mobility impaired] person with a disability or person training [a  
352 dog as a guide dog or an assistance dog] an animal as a service animal  
353 under subsection [(a) or] (b) or (c) of this section shall be guilty of a class  
354 C misdemeanor, provided such [blind, deaf or mobility impaired]  
355 person with a disability or person training [a dog as a guide dog or an  
356 assistance dog] an animal as a service animal complies with the  
357 applicable provisions of subsection [(a) or] (b) or (c) of this section.

358 [(d) For the purposes of this section, "guide dog" or "assistance dog"  
359 includes a dog being trained as a guide dog or assistance dog and  
360 "person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or an assistance  
361 dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person" means a person who  
362 is employed by and authorized to engage in designated training  
363 activities by a guide dog organization or assistance dog organization  
364 that complies with the criteria for membership in a professional  
365 association of guide dog or assistance dog schools and who carries  
366 photographic identification indicating such employment and  
367 authorization, or a person who volunteers for a guide dog organization  
368 or assistance dog organization that authorizes such volunteers to raise  
369 dogs to become guide dogs or assistance dogs and causes the  
370 identification of such dog with (1) identification tags, (2) ear tattoos, (3)  
371 identifying bandanas on puppies, (4) identifying coats on adult dogs, or  
372 (5) leashes and collars.]

373 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 46a-64 of the general statutes is  
374 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
375 *2024*):

376 (a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section: (1)

377 To deny any person within the jurisdiction of this state full and equal  
378 accommodations in any place of public accommodation, resort or  
379 amusement because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex,  
380 gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of  
381 income, intellectual disability, mental disability, physical disability,  
382 including, but not limited to, blindness or deafness, status as a veteran  
383 or status as a victim of domestic violence, of the applicant, subject only  
384 to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike  
385 to all persons; (2) to discriminate, segregate or separate on account of  
386 race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or  
387 expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income, intellectual  
388 disability, mental disability, learning disability, physical disability,  
389 including, but not limited to, blindness or deafness, status as a veteran  
390 or status as a victim of domestic violence; (3) for a place of public  
391 accommodation, resort or amusement to restrict or limit the right of a  
392 mother to breast-feed her child; (4) for a place of public accommodation,  
393 resort or amusement to [fail or refuse to post a notice, in a conspicuous  
394 place, that any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person, accompanied by  
395 his guide dog wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar,  
396 may enter such premises or facilities] refuse entry to a person with a  
397 disability who is accompanied by a service animal; or (5) to deny any  
398 [blind, deaf or mobility impaired] person with a disability or any person  
399 training [a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf  
400 or mobility impaired person] an animal as a service animal to assist a  
401 person with a disability, accompanied by [his guide dog or assistance  
402 dog] such service animal, full and equal access to any place of public  
403 accommodation, resort or amusement. Any [blind, deaf or mobility  
404 impaired] person with a disability or any person training [a dog as a  
405 guide dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility  
406 impaired person] an animal as a service animal may keep [his guide dog  
407 or assistance dog with him] such service animal at all times in such place  
408 of public accommodation, resort or amusement at no extra charge,  
409 provided [the dog wears a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar  
410 and] such service animal is in the direct custody and control of such  
411 person. [The blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or person training

412 a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or  
413 mobility impaired person shall be liable for any damage done to the  
414 premises or facilities by his dog. For purposes of this subdivision, "guide  
415 dog" or "assistance dog" includes a dog being trained as a guide dog or  
416 assistance dog and "person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind  
417 person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person" means a  
418 person who is employed by and authorized to engage in designated  
419 training activities by a guide dog organization or assistance dog  
420 organization that complies with the criteria for membership in a  
421 professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools and who  
422 carries photographic identification indicating such employment and  
423 authorization.] When it is not obvious what service an animal provides,  
424 staff of a place of public accommodation, resort or amusement may  
425 inquire of the owner or keeper whether such animal is a service animal  
426 required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has  
427 been trained to perform. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a  
428 business owner's ability to recover for damage caused to a person or  
429 property by a service animal. For the purposes of this subsection,  
430 "service animal" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-345, as  
431 amended by this act, and "place of public accommodation, resort or  
432 amusement" has the same meaning as provided in section 46a-44, as  
433 amended by this act.

434 Sec. 13. Section 52-175a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
435 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

436 The failure of a blind person to use a [guide dog] service animal or to  
437 carry a cane or walking stick which is predominantly white or metallic  
438 in color, with or without red tip, shall not be construed as evidence of  
439 comparative or contributory negligence in any negligence action. For  
440 purposes of this section, "service animal" has the same meaning as  
441 provided in section 22-345, as amended by this act.

442 Sec. 14. Section 54-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
443 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

444 As used in sections 54-201 to 54-235, inclusive, as amended by this  
445 act:

446 (1) "Victim" means a person who is injured or killed as provided in  
447 section 54-209;

448 (2) "Personal injury" means (A) actual bodily harm or emotional harm  
449 and includes pregnancy and any condition thereof, or (B) injury or death  
450 to a service animal, as defined in 28 CFR 35.104, as amended from time  
451 to time, owned or kept by a person with a disability;

452 (3) "Dependent" means any relative of a deceased victim or a person  
453 designated by a deceased victim in accordance with section 1-56r who  
454 was wholly or partially dependent upon his income at the time of his  
455 death or the child of a deceased victim and shall include the child of  
456 such victim born after his death;

457 (4) "Relative" means a person's spouse, parent, grandparent,  
458 stepparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, child, including a natural born  
459 child, stepchild and adopted child, grandchild, brother, sister, half  
460 brother or half sister or a parent of a person's spouse;

461 (5) "Crime" means any act which is a felony, as defined in section 53a-  
462 25, or misdemeanor, as defined in section 53a-26, and includes any crime  
463 committed by a juvenile; and

464 (6) "Emotional harm" means a mental or emotional impairment that  
465 requires treatment through services and that is directly attributable to a  
466 threat of (A) physical injury, as defined in subdivision (3) of section 53a-  
467 3, or (B) death to the affected person.

468 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Commission on Human  
469 Rights and Opportunities shall, within available appropriations, make  
470 available on its Internet web site links to educational materials on (1) the  
471 differences between service animals, emotional support animals and  
472 therapy animals, (2) the rights and responsibilities of an owner of each  
473 such animal under state and federal law, and (3) permissible methods

474 under state and federal law for an owner of a place of public  
 475 accommodation, resort or amusement, as defined in section 46a-63 of  
 476 the general statutes, or a landlord, to determine whether an animal is a  
 477 service animal, an emotional support animal or a therapy animal. For  
 478 purposes of this section, "service animal" has the same meaning as  
 479 provided in section 22-345 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
 480 act.

481       Sec. 16. Section 46a-42 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective July*  
 482 *1, 2024*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	5-247b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	13b-119(f)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	14-300
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	14-300i
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	22-345
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	22-354a(c)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	22-357(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	22-358(c)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	22-364b
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	46a-44
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	46a-64(a)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	52-175a
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	54-201
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) align state law with federal law concerning service animals, and (2) within available appropriations, make available through the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities educational materials concerning service animals, emotional support animals and therapy animals.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*



