

HOUSE BILL 1661

By Farmer

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 13; Title 16; Title 33; Title 39; Title 41; Title 49; Title 50; Title 62; Title 66 and Title 68, relative to animals utilized by persons with disabilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-16-304, is amended by deleting the section and substituting the following:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Dog guide" includes a service animal and support animal; and

(2) "Service animal" and "support animal" have the same meanings as defined in § 66-7-111(a).

(b) A person commits the offense of misrepresentation of a service animal or support animal who knowingly:

(1) Represents fraudulently, as a part of a request to maintain a service animal or support animal in residential rental property under § 66-7-111 or § 66-28-406, that the person has a disability or disability-related need for the use of a service animal or support animal;

(2) Provides documentation to a landlord under § 66-7-111(c) or § 66-28-406(c) that falsely states an animal is a service animal or support animal; or

(3) Represents fraudulently, as a part of a request to enter a place of public accommodation, amusement, or recreation with a dog guide or dog guide in training under § 62-7-112, that the person has a disability or disability-related

need for the use of a dog guide or is the raiser or trainer of a dog guide in training.

(c) Misrepresentation of a service animal or support animal is a Class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to prohibited conduct occurring on or after that date.