

HB 834 -- SERVICE DOGS

Sponsor: Sommer

This bill adds an individual with mental disabilities to the list of people who must have the same rights as those without disabilities to use streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, and other public places. An individual with mental disabilities is also entitled to equal accommodation from common carriers, airlines, motor vehicles, trains, buses, taxis, and any other public conveyances or modes of transportation, as well as hotels, places of public accommodation, and other places to which the general public has the right to be accompanied by a guide, hearing, or service dog in any of these places without being required to pay an extra charge.

The term "service dog" is revised to include:

- (1) An emotional support animal that provides therapeutic benefit to its owner through companionship and affection but is not specifically trained to assist a person with a disability;
- (2) A psychiatric service dog that is trained to do work or perform tasks that mitigate the difficulties of its owner with a psychiatric disability;
- (3) A professional therapy dog that is trained to provide specific physical therapeutic functions under the control of a qualified handler;
- (4) A search and rescue dog that is trained to search for or prevent a person with a mental disability from becoming lost; and
- (5) A service team dog that has been trained as part of a team consisting of a disabled person and an adult who has been trained to handle the dog.