

CCS SCS SB 33 -- PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

This bill changes the laws regarding persons with mental disabilities. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Designates December 4 as "PKS Day" in Missouri. Pallister-Killian Mosaic Syndrome (PKS) is a disorder usually caused by the presence of an abnormal extra chromosome and is characterized by vision and hearing impairments; seizure disorders; and early childhood, intellectual disability, distinctive facial features, sparse hair, areas of unusual skin coloring, weak muscle tone, and other birth defects. Citizens are encouraged to participate in awareness and educational activities on the symptoms and impact of PKS and to support programs of research, education, and community service;
- (2) Specifies that an individual with a visual, aural, or other disability, including diabetes, must be afforded the same rights as those without a disability to use streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, and other public places; is 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 is invited; and must have 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 if the person will be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by the dog;
- (3) Specifies that a member of a service dog team has the right to be accompanied by the dog while the dog is in training without being required to pay an extra charge for the dog. The trainer or service dog team member must be liable for any damage done to the premises of a facility by the dog. These provisions cannot exceed the provisions of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act;
- (4) Defines a "professional therapy dog" as a dog that is selected, trained, and tested to provide specific physical therapeutic functions under the direction and control of a qualified handler who works with the dog as a team as a part of the handler's occupation or profession but does not include dogs used by volunteers in visitation therapy;
- (5) Revises the definition of "service dog" to include a search and rescue dog that is being or has been trained to search for or prevent a person with a mental disability from becoming lost; and
- (6) Specifies that a service dog team consists of a trained

service dog, a disabled person or child, and an adult person who has been trained to handle the dog.