

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 113

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

COURTS: Provides relative to the use of facility dogs in court

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:284(F), relative to the use of facility dogs in certain circumstances; to  
3 provide an alternative reference to the law regarding the use of facility dogs in court  
4 proceedings; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:284(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §284. Facility dogs; use in court; procedure

8 \* \* \*

9 F. This Section may be referred to and may be cited as "Duvall's Law".

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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)]

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HB 113 Original

2020 Regular Session

Amedee

**Abstract:** Allows for R.S. 15:284 to be referred to and cited as "Duvall's Law"

Present law requires the court to allow a witness who is either under 18 years of age or who has a developmental disability to have a facility dog, if available, accompany them while testifying in court.

Present law authorizes the court to allow the use of facility dogs in cases involving all other witnesses.

Present law requires notice to the court and provides for jury instructions regarding the role of the facility dog.

Present law defines "facility dog" as a dog that is certified and a graduate of an assistance dog organization that is accredited and is specially trained to provide emotional support to witnesses testifying in judicial proceedings without causing a distraction during the proceedings.

Proposed law retains present law and allows for present law to be referred to and cited as "Duvall's Law".

(Adds R.S. 15:284(F))