

ACT No. 616

HOUSE BILL NO. 126

BY REPRESENTATIVES MANDIE LANDRY, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BOUDREAUX, BOYD, CHASSION, CHENEVERT, CREWS, DOMANGUE, EGAN, FREIBERG, GALLE, GREEN, DANA HENRY, HILFERTY, JORDAN, KERNER, KNOX, LACOMBE, LAFLEUR, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, MARTINEZ, MCMAHEN, MCMAKIN, MOORE, MURRAY, OWEN, PHELPS, SAWYER, STAGNI, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, VENTRELLA, AND WYBLE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:284(A), (D), and (F), relative to the use of facility dogs; to
3 provide for the use of facility dogs by victims of sex offenses; and to provide for
4 related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:284(A), (D), and (F) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
7 as follows:

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

9 A. The court shall allow a any witness who is either under eighteen years of
10 age, ~~or~~ who has a developmental disability as defined in R.S. 28:451.2, or who is in
11 a trial for a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 to have be accompanied by a
12 facility dog, if available, ~~accompany them~~ while testifying in court.

13 * * *

14 D. To ensure that the presence of a facility dog does not influence the jury
15 or is not a reflection on the truthfulness of any testimony that is offered by the victim
16 or witness, the court ~~shall~~ may order that the presence of the dog be obscured from
17 the jury at all times and may instruct the jury on the role of the facility dog and, on
18 the court's own motion or upon request of either party. The court shall ensure that the
19 facility dog is a trained animal. The facility dog's entry into and exit from the
20 courtroom shall be done outside the presence of the jury and all precautions should
21 be taken to obscure the presence of the dog from the jury.

22 * * *

1 F. This Section may be referred to and ~~may be~~ cited as "~~Duvall's~~ Duvall and
2 Karissa's Law".

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____