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## DIGEST

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HB 292 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Amedee

**Abstract:** Requires the use of facility dogs for certain witnesses and authorizes the court to allow their use for other witnesses.

Proposed 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.

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

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

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

(Adds R.S. 15:284)

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Allow witnesses under 18 years of age to use a facility dog if needed.