

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 503 (HB 292)

2018 Regular Session

Amedee

New 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.

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

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

New 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.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Adds R.S. 15:284)