

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 440

BY SENATOR PERRY

VETERANS AFFAIRS. Provides for the creation of a Louisiana Service Dog Registry and licensure of service dog trainers. (8/1/16)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:1958.1, relative to the rights of persons with disabilities; to provide for
3 creation of a Louisiana Service Dog Registry; to provide for the licensure of service
4 dog trainers; to provide relative to eligibility for certain educational benefits for
5 service dog trainers; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 46:1958.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§1958.1. Louisiana Service Dog Registry; identification card and patch;**
9 **licensure of trainers**

10 **A. The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs shall create a service dog**
11 **registry and issue an identification card for the owner and a patch for the**
12 **service dog indicating that the service dog has been properly trained.**

13 **B. To receive the identification card and patch, an individual seeking to**
14 **register his service dog shall provide the following:**

15 **(1) An affidavit signed by the applicant attesting that the dog has been**
16 **properly trained as a service dog by a trainer duly licensed by the Louisiana**
17 **Department of Veterans Affairs.**

1 **(2) Documentation from an appropriate health care or rehabilitation**
 2 **professional certifying that the applicant requires the assistance of a service dog**
 3 **due to a military service-related disability.**

4 **C. The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs shall establish the**
 5 **qualifications for, and issue a license to, a dog trainer who wishes to train**
 6 **service dogs eligible for inclusion in the Louisiana Service Dog Registry.**

7 **D. Veterans and members of the armed forces seeking training as a**
 8 **service dog trainer shall be eligible for any available education-related**
 9 **programs or benefits.**

10 **E. The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and the Louisiana**
 11 **Department of Veteran's Affairs shall promulgate rules in accordance with the**
 12 **Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Section.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

SB 440 Original

2016 Regular Session

Perry

Proposed law requires the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs to create a service dog registry and issue an identification card for the owner and a patch for a service dog indicating that the service dog has been properly trained.

Proposed law provides that an individual seeking to register his service dog shall provide the following:

- (1) An affidavit signed by the applicant attesting that the dog has been properly trained as a service dog by a trainer duly licensed by the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (2) Documentation from an appropriate health care or rehabilitation professional certifying that the applicant requires the assistance of a service dog due to a military service-related disability.

Proposed law requires the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs to establish the qualifications for, and issue a license to, a dog trainer who wishes to train service dogs eligible for inclusion in the Louisiana Service Dog Registry.

Proposed law provides that veterans and members of the armed forces seeking training as a service dog trainer shall be eligible for any available education-related programs or benefits.

Proposed law requires the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and the Louisiana Department of Veteran's Affairs shall promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement proposed law.

SLS 16RS-980

ORIGINAL
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Effective August 1, 2016.

(Adds R.S. 46:1958.1)