



Senate Fiscal Agency
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BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Bill 299 (as introduced 4-28-15)
Sponsor: Senator Margaret O'Brien
Committee: Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security

Date Completed: 6-10-15

CONTENT

The bill would amend Public Act 207 of 1970, which exempts certain dogs from license fees, to change various terms and definitions.

The Act provides that a dog is not subject to any fee for licensing if: a) the dog is used as a guide or leader dog for a blind person, a hearing dog for a deaf or audibly impaired person, or a service dog for a physically limited person, or b) the dog is owned by a partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that trains dogs for those purposes. Where the Act refers to a blind, deaf or audibly impaired, or physically limited individual, the bill would refer to a person with a disability. Where the Act refers to a guide or leader, hearing, or service dog, the bill would refer instead refer to a service animal.

"Person with a disability" would mean a person who satisfies all of the following conditions: has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a history or record of such an impairment; and is perceived by others as having such an impairment described. The term would include a veteran who has been diagnosed with one or more of the following: a) post-traumatic stress disorder, b) traumatic brain injury, or c) other service-related disabilities.

"Service animal" would mean a dog or a miniature horse that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

MCL 287.291

Legislative Analyst: Jeff Mann

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would reduce local revenue by a minimal amount due to expanding the types of disabilities and service animals that qualify for an exemption from licensing fees. The bill would have no fiscal impact on the State.

Fiscal Analyst: Elizabeth Pratt

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