



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 547

H.P. 371

House of Representatives, February 26, 2015

An Act Regarding Service Dogs

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and
Representatives: DOORE of Augusta, LAJOIE of Lewiston, MAKER of Calais, NADEAU of
Winslow, STANLEY of Medway, TUELL of East Machias.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3922, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 664, §11, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **4. Service dogs.** If a service dog has not been previously registered or licensed by
5 the municipal clerk to whom the application is being made, the clerk may not register the
6 dog nor issue to its owner or keeper a license and tag that identifies the dog as a service
7 dog unless the applicant presents written evidence to the municipal clerk that the dog
8 meets the definition of "service dog." For the purpose of this subsection "written
9 evidence" means a service dog certification form approved by the department in
10 consultation with the Maine Human Rights Commission. The service dog certification
11 form must include a letter signed by a physician, psychologist, physician assistant or
12 nurse practitioner indicating that the owner or keeper or a member of the owner's or
13 keeper's household requires the service dog and a certification or other document
14 indicating that the service dog has completed training from an established service animal
15 training organization or has been evaluated by a certified animal trainer and found to have
16 a sound temperament suitable for a service dog.

17 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §3923-B, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

18 **1-A. Service dog registration tag.** In accordance with subsection 1, the department
19 shall ensure that, with regard to the registration and licensing of a service dog, the service
20 dog's registration tag clearly indicates that the dog is a service animal pursuant to Title 5,
21 section 4553, subsection 9-E. The department shall devise a method of ensuring that a
22 service dog's registration tag is clearly visible to the public.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill requires that an individual registering a service dog present to the municipal
25 clerk a letter signed by a physician, psychologist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner
26 indicating that the individual or a member of the individual's household requires the
27 service dog and a certification or other document indicating that the service dog has
28 completed training from an established service animal training organization or has been
29 evaluated by a certified animal trainer and found to have a sound temperament suitable
30 for a service dog. It also requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and
31 Forestry to ensure that the registration tag of a service dog clearly indicates that the dog is
32 a service animal and to devise a method of ensuring that a service dog's registration tag is
33 visible to the public.