

SENATE No. 912

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mark C. Montigny

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to protect access for service animal trainers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Mark C. Montigny

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Bristol and Plymouth

SENATE No. 912

By Mr. Montigny, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 912) of Mark C. Montigny for legislation to protect access for service animal trainers. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act to protect access for service animal trainers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 98A of chapter 272 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is amended by striking the section and inserting, in place thereof, the following
3 new section:-

4 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any blind person, or deaf or hearing
5 handicapped person, or other physically handicapped person accompanied by a dog guide, or a
6 person accompanied by and engaged in the raising or training of a service dog, including a
7 hearing, guide or assistance dog shall be entitled to any and all accommodations, advantages,
8 facilities and privileges of all public conveyances, public amusements and places of public
9 accommodation, within the commonwealth, to which persons not accompanied by dogs are
10 entitled, subject only to the conditions and limitations applicable to all persons not accompanied
11 by dogs, and no such blind person, or deaf or hearing handicapped, or other physically
12 handicapped person, or a person accompanied by and engaged in the raising or training of a
13 service dog, including a hearing, guide or assistance dog shall be required to pay any charge or

14 fare for or on account of the transportation on any public conveyance for himself and such dog
15 so accompanying him in addition to the charge or fare lawfully chargeable for his own
16 transportation.

17 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an employee or volunteer with a service
18 animal training organization engaged in the raising or training of a service dog, including a
19 hearing, guide, or assistance dog, shall be entitled to full and equal access to all housing
20 accommodations offered for rent, lease, or compensation in the state; provided, however, that
21 this subsection will not apply to the leasing of a single apartment or flat in a two family dwelling,
22 the other occupancy unit of which is occupied by the owner as his residence.

23 (c) Whoever deprives any blind person, or deaf or hearing handicapped person, or other
24 physically handicapped person, or a person who is an employee or volunteer with a service
25 animal training organization engaged in the raising or training of a service dog, including a
26 hearing, guide or assistance dog of any right conferred by this section shall be punished by a fine
27 of not more than three hundred dollars and shall be liable to any person aggrieved thereby for
28 such damages as are set forth in section five of chapter one hundred and fifty-one B; provided,
29 however, that such civic forfeiture shall be of an amount not less than one hundred dollars.