

HOUSE BILL 3054

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 2, Part 5 and Title 44, relative to policies regarding the entry of service dogs into courtrooms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-505, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(f)

(1) The security committee in each county, shall by October 1, 2010, formulate, publish and post a policy for such county relative to permitting hearing ear dogs, guide dogs, police dogs, search and rescue dogs and other such service dogs into the courtrooms of that county.

(2) The policy described in subdivision (f)(1) shall establish at a minimum:

(A) The necessary credentials a person seeking entry into the courtroom is required to display to court officials to demonstrate that such person is in need of a service dog;

(B) The necessary credentials a person seeking entry into the courtroom is required to show court officials to demonstrate that the dog for which the person seeks entry is a service dog, properly trained as such or in training as a service dog;

(C) The leash, collar, vest or other indentifying item a service dog seeking entry into a courtroom must wear to gain such entry; and

(D) Any restricted areas of the courtroom into which a service dog is not permitted.

(3) The policy described in subdivision (f)(1) shall be consistent with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, compiled in 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. and any other applicable state or federal law that requires a public facility to be accessible to a person who utilizes a service animal.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.