

HB

170

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CS HB 170 (HES)

Revision Date (Note if correction) _____	Dept. Affected _____	Law _____
Title <u>"An Act relating to interference with the rights</u>	BRU <u>Criminal Division</u>	
<u>of physically and mentally challenged persons; ...</u>	Component <u>Criminal Division</u>	
Sponsor <u>Representative Brice</u>		<u>1st-4th Jud Dist; OSPA</u>
Requester <u>Senate HESS Committee</u>	Component Serial No. <u>2198-99/226179/01/03</u>	

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

CSHB 170 (HES) changes references to a physically or mentally "disabled" person to a physically or mentally "challenged" person in AS 11.76.130 relating to the interference with the rights of those persons. The committee substitute also adds mentally challenged persons to those individuals who may be accompanied or assisted by a service animal, without extra charge for the service animal, in a common carrier, place of accommodation, or other place where the general public is invited. Further, CSHB 170 (HES) adds a new section to AS 11.76 creating the crime of interference with the training of a service animal, with the penalty a class B misdemeanor.

Passage of this bill is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the Department of Law.

Prepared by	<u>Joan M. Kasson</u> <i>Joan M. Kasson</i>	Phone	<u>465-5370</u>
Division	<u>Attorney General's Office</u>	Date	<u>1/28/98</u>
Approved by	<u>Commissioner</u> <i>Bruce M. Botelho</i>	Date	<u>1/28/98</u>
Agency	<u>Department of Law</u>		

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SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 5/4/97

FURTHER: Judiciary

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 3/5/98

HESS Committee considered

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 170(HES)

"An Act relating to interference with the rights of physically and mentally challenged persons; and relating to service animals during their pre-training and training period."

and recommends:

be replaced with S CS CS HB 170 (HES)

adopt previous CS ()

attached amendment(s)

adopt Letter of Intent by Committee

further referral to the Committee

Senate Bill:
 same title
 new title
 House Bill:
 same title
 technical title
 new: SCR#

SIGNING DO PANN	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Loren Leman</i>	✓	<i>Lyle Green</i>	✓		
<i>J. J. Ellis</i>	✓				
CHAIR: <i>George White</i>	✓	CHAIR:			

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<i>Law</i>	<i>1/28/98</i>	✓	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<i>Law</i>	<i>3/2/97</i>	✓	

applies to CS

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

0-LS0589AH
Lauterbach
1/28/98

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 170()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES BRICE, Croft, Ryan

SENATORS Wilken, Leman, Taylor

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to interference with the rights of physically and mentally
2 challenged persons; and relating to service animals during their pre-training and
3 training period."

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

5 * Section 1. AS 11.76.130 is amended to read:

6 Sec. 11.76.130. Interference with rights of physically or mentally
7 challenged [DISABLED] person. (a) A person commits the crime of interference
8 with the rights of a physically or mentally challenged [DISABLED] person if the
9 person intentionally prevents or restricts

10 (1) a physically or mentally challenged [DISABLED] person from
11 having full and free pedestrian use of a street, highway, sidewalk, walkway, or other
12 thoroughfare [.] to the same extent that any other person has a right to pedestrian use;
13 or

14 (2) a physically or mentally challenged [DISABLED] person from

1 being accompanied or assisted by a certified service animal, without an extra charge
2 for the service animal, in a common carrier, place of public accommodation, or other
3 place to which the general public is invited [,] except as provided in (b) of this section.

4 (b) A physically or mentally challenged [DISABLED] person who is
5 accompanied or assisted by a certified service animal in a common carrier, place of
6 public accommodation, or other place to which the general public is invited [,] is liable
7 for property damage done by the animal.

8 (c) In this section,

9 (1) "certified service animal" means an animal trained to assist a
10 physically or mentally challenged [DISABLED] person and certified by a school or
11 training facility for service animals as having completed such training;

12 (2) "physically or mentally challenged [DISABLED]" means
13 physically or mentally disabled, as defined [HAS THE MEANING GIVEN] in
14 AS 18.80.300.

15 (d) Interference with the rights of a physically or mentally challenged
16 [DISABLED] person is a class B misdemeanor.

17 * Sec. 2. AS 11.76 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 **Sec. 11.76.133. Interference with the training of a service animal.** (a) A
19 person commits the crime of interference with the training of a service animal if the
20 person intentionally prevents or restricts a person who is authorized to train service
21 animals from being accompanied by an animal that is in training to be a service
22 animal, or assesses an extra charge because of the animal, in a public facility, except
23 as provided in (b) and (c) of this section.

24 (b) A trainer who is accompanied by an animal in training to be a service
25 animal in a public facility is liable for property damage done by the animal.

26 (c) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this section that the
27 person accompanied by the animal in training to be a service animal did not, when
28 requested by the defendant, give reasonable evidence of being a person authorized to
29 train service animals.

30 (d) In this section,

31 (1) "authorized" means employed by, or serving as a volunteer with,

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a school, agency, or other facility that trains service animals;

(2) "in training to be a service animal" means being in the pre-training or training period as required under a program administered through a school, agency, or other training facility for service animals whose goal is to certify the animal as being able to assist physically or mentally challenged persons;

(3) "public facility" means a capital improvement owned, operated, or occupied by, or a mode of transportation owned or operated by, the state, a public corporation of the state, the University of Alaska, a political subdivision of the state, or a regional educational attendance area.

(e) Interference with the training of a service animal is ~~a class B misdemeanor.~~

violation

0-LS0589\K
Lauterbach
1/29/98

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 170()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES BRICE, Croft, Ryan

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27 (1) the person accompanied by the animal in training to be a service
28 animal did not, when requested by the defendant, give reasonable evidence of being
29 a person authorized to train service animals; or

30 (2) the defendant prevented entry into the facility or caused the trainer
31 and the animal to leave or be removed from the facility based on unruly or disruptive

1 conduct of the animal that created a substantial risk of imminent physical injury to a
2 person other than the trainer or created an atmosphere that made regular activities by
3 other persons in the facility substantially more difficult than usual.

4 (d) In this section,

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13 corporation of the state, the University of Alaska, a political subdivision of the state,
14 or a regional educational attendance area.

15 (e) Interference with the training of a service animal is a violation.

0-LS0589\N
Lauterbach
1/30/98

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 170()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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0-LS0589\P
Lauterbach
2/3/98

Considered in (s) HESS

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 170()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

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Referred:

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20 (e) Interference with the training of a service animal is a violation.

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 170(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES BRICE, Croft, Ryan

SENATORS Wilken, Leman, Taylor

A BILL

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Representative Tom Brice
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

119 N. Cushman, Ste. 206
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-456-7423 Fax: 451-9293
While in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-3466

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HOUSE BILL 170

**"AN ACT RELATING TO INTERFERENCE WITH THE RIGHTS OF
PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS; AND
RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS DURING THEIR TRAINING
PERIOD."**

Although the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) gives service animals access to public establishments, too often young service animals in training are turned away from these establishments due to the existing law. HB 170 extends AS 11.76.130, to include young animals in training. Service animals perform functions and tasks that an individual with a disability cannot perform for her or himself. If we expect service animals to behave properly in public places they must have access to those locations while being trained.

District 30



SPONSOR STATEMENT



RECEIVED
MAR 1 1997
hand delivered
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

To: Representative Tom Brice
State of Alaska
Legislative Office

From: Suzanne Price
P. O. Box 84951
Fairbanks, Alaska
99708

March 12, 1997

Re: House Bill 170

Dear Representative Brice,
I've been raising Guide Dog Puppies for the Blind for over ten years now. I'm a 4-H Club Leader and each dog in training is a 4-H project. The 4-H Club provides insurance that raisers obtain each year with their membership. The dog is expected to learn basic obedience and socialization in the 14 months they spend with their 4-H family. It is imperative that these service dogs are introduced to the sights, sounds and smells of normal life including public buildings, traffic, a variety of transportation modes, events, crowds, etc. Puppy raisers are supervised by designated leaders and the guide dog school sponsoring the project. It is also expected that raisers will give educational presentations and participate in guide dog trainings. The Guide dog Project teaches our youth leadership and the value of Community Service. As a volunteer I receive no monetary compensation; my reward is the knowledge that I have given the gift of independence and companionship.

I have encountered the following problems because Alaska has no ordinance pertaining to service dogs in training:

1. The Fifth Avenue Mall in Anchorage has the only glass elevator in Alaska. They have refused to allow guide dog training.
2. The Alaska State Ferry system has refused to allow training on board.
3. The Alaska State Fair (Palmer) refuses to allow training during the Fair. They have allowed an event but raisers were not allowed to walk dogs in or near the public.
4. A visit to the State Courthouse requires a number of phone calls and possible rejection (twice) by security personnel.

The reason for rejection from public places is always the same:

Security personnel ask: "Are you blind?"

We answer "No we're training the dog."

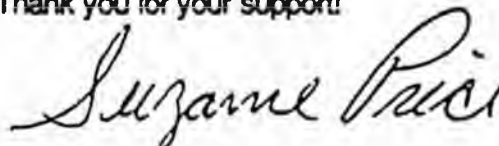
Security personnel: "If you're not blind you can't bring that dog in here."

We explain: "The dog needs to be trained before the blind person receives him."

Security personnel: "If you're not blind you can't come in here."

I sincerely hope that House Bill 170 is enacted by the legislature.

Thank you for your support!



Suzanne Price

RECEIVED

MAR 1 1997

Hand delivered
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

To: Tom Brice

Roger L. Hansen
1887 Southern Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska

Re: House Bill #172

Dear Tom,

For the last 28 years I've been raising Guide Dog Puppies for the Blind. No one can remember anymore, but it's somewhere between 25 to 30 of them have passed through my home. About 20 years ago I moved down to Southcentral Alaska and until I moved back here to the interior I could not count the number of times I was kicked out of places because I was trying to train a guide dog puppy. I had the reputation of having been thrown out of more places in Alaska than anyone else. Well, anyone sober that is.

Since I've moved back to Fairbanks the only place that I can't get into are offices of the State of Alaska with my puppies, particularly the State Courthouse. I would explain why I can't get in the Courthouse with my puppy but they can't explain it. I guess there is an exception to that, it's no problem at Fish and Game. But I think that's because they like Labrador and Golden Retrievers there.

The State Ferry system is the worst by far, the most shabby treatment I've ever had has been by them. An example of that is a few years ago my wife and I were bringing five Guide Dogs up with us from the United States, three of them 8 week old puppies. They would give us twenty minutes to feed, water, walk and cleanup after all five of them. If you've ever tried that it can get real hectic on a slippery deck sometimes.

When asking the purser if we could have an extra 10 minutes we were not only refused we were also told that if we did try and extend the time we would be removed by the police at the next stop. Our approach was only an inquiry, and there was certainly no hostility in the question. The same purser would turn her back when others were bringing little dogs they could fit under coats on the upper decks. Some times they didn't even bother to try and hide them under their coat.

3.

in the car because they are basically house dogs who can't be left out when it's cold, and you can't take them inside. We made it to Eureka Summit and were turned down for lodging there also causing us to drive to Palmer in a storm that had us plowing and dodging snow drifts just about the whole way, there were very few other vehicles on the road that night. Another trip we were coming up the Alaska Highway after being down in the United States, and while we were there we picked up two new guide dog puppies. The only problem we had between California, where the pups were picked up, was when we pulled into the Community of Tok. We were turned down at the two places that were open back then. We paid a man \$25 to pump us gas as well as the price of the gas because he was closed, and we were afraid of running out of gas in a temperature that was at 48° below zero.

There is no cost for a blind person to receive a Guide Dog for the Blind, or the training the blind person needs to learn how to use their new partner. Seeing Eye in New Jersey does ask for \$100 U. S., but it's waived most of the time. One of my favorite things about this whole program is that it is done with volunteers, 70% of them are teenagers in a 4-H program, as well as a lot of donations from private sources. These teenagers are in a project in Community Service of people helping people. There is not ONE RED CENT of government money involved in the process. It shows our teens how to be committed to a project of about 14 months where they are totally responsible for training and taking care of an animal, and succeed. All without cost to ANY government agency

There is a very painful part of all of this. More than once I've shared a box of Kleenex at the airport with a teenager, or my wife, because after fourteen months it's pretty hard to give up your best buddy and send them off for the rest of their training, a lot of times knowing you're never going to see them again.

Roger Han

P. S.

I'd tell you about the Palmer Sate Fair, but I just get P.O.'d if I think about it.

Alaska Airlines

April 3, 1997

Ms. Tracy Ashe
Office of Representative Tom Brice
Capital 426
Juneau, AK 99801

(Fax 465-2937)

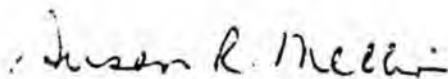
Dear Ms. Ashe:

For the past several years, Alaska Airlines has supported a 4-H Guide Dog program in Alaska. Puppies are flown by Alaska Airlines from the training school in California to the 4-H member in Alaska. The puppies are then given basic training for an extended period of time, then flown by Alaska Airlines from Alaska back to California where the dog receives complete guide dog training and is placed with individuals that will benefit from their special help.

All transportation costs have been paid by Alaska Airlines.

We've been very proud to support this most worthwhile cause.

Sincerely,



Susan R. Mellin
Manager, Public Affairs - Alaska

sm

1200 Wood Rose Ave, Fairbanks AK 99701 452-5112

Raquebie Cahn 2091 Flight St. North Pole, AK 99705
488-6788

715 7th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701

715 7th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701

715 7th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701

715 7th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701

715 7th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701

715 7th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701

715 7th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701

2133 Doreen Ct Fairbanks, AK 99709 457-2850

P.O. Box 75267 Fairbanks, AK 99707 456-1887

P.O. Box 75267 Fairbanks, AK 99707 456-1887

1729 Geden Dr Fairbanks, AK 99709 488-4700

P.O. Box 55904 North Pole, AK 99705

2476 Poppy Dr. North Pole, AK 99705 488-0307

3045 Taxi Lane B NP AK 99705-488027

P.O. Box 74951 Fairbanks, 99707 451-2830

P.O. Box 81885 Fairbanks, AK 99708 456-3133

1499 Market Fairbanks, AK 99709 479-9161



January 26, 1998

Senator Gary Wilkin
Chairman, Senate HESS
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB170

Dear Senator Wilkin:

As you may be aware, the Fair has a good track record in encouraging and promoting any form of legitimate education. We strive to provide an atmosphere of learning for all our patrons. Education is, in fact, a major component of our mission statement.

Each year all our gate and security personnel are instructed to allow any type of dog utilized for assistance admittance on to the grounds. As far as I am aware, we have had no problems with this nor has it been abused.

Historically, dogs in training have been denied access to the grounds. The potential uncertainty of how a puppy will react in a large crowd, the liability of a fight or biting, and dog waste on the ground are all reasons for why we allow no pets on the grounds. We also have the problem of vendors, who pay to be on our grounds, are not allowed to have their animals on the grounds and have complained when we did allow a puppy in training.

The Alaska State Fair in no manner wishes to discourage the training of assisted living animals. However, we feel it is important for those animals to be visually identified in some manner. From the fair's perspective, we strive to provide a safe atmosphere for fairgoers which can be impaired by untried animals in training. From the fairgoer's perspective, I believe it is important to identify dogs in training so parents can take advantage of this potentially educational opportunity, answer questions and take appropriate measures regarding the individual situation.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call and again, thank you for your interest and time.

Sincerely,

Deidre R. Berberich

Deidre R. Berberich
Operations Manager

Steven L. & Nancy M. Andison
9346 Parkview Court
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: (907) 790-4467
Fax: (907) 789-2914
E-Mail: kakenpf@ptlalaska.net

HESS Committee
C/O Chairperson
Honorable Senator Gary Wilken

Re: HB 170

January 27, 1998

...training service animals in public

Dear Members of the HESS Committee;

I applaud the intent of HB 170. However, in its current form, this bill is not the legislation we are looking for. As written, this bill suggests that agencies will invariably produce good service animals, and owners are incapable of doing so. Such is not the case.

Since public safety and convenience must be considered in this legislation I'd like to cite an example of public safety policy that is already on the books: Whereas an automobile is potentially a lethal weapon, a person learning how to drive for the first time may take this lethal weapon out on to public streets and expose the public to danger. Although I would like to be assured that all drivers on the road are qualified to be there, I would object to legislation which suddenly proclaimed that my driver's license was invalid because I was not trained by a state-sanctioned driving school. Inexperienced drivers are far more dangerous to the public than are service dogs in training. Yet we only demand proof of competent driving skills for an individual to receive a driver's license. In contrast, HB 170 requires that service dogs be trained by "certified" training facilities before being taken out into public. In a test of public safety, I would sooner have you protect me from an unqualified driver piloting a two thousand pound car than from a person in a wheelchair piloting a 60 pound dog.

Alaska does not endorse a specific make and model of safe car. Alaska does, however, demand that vehicles are in good working order to be on our roads. Cars must be subjected to safety criteria. Likewise, a dog that meets our public standards may be taken into public regardless of its make or model. The state sets the standards, we need only prove that we have met them.

There are two primary issues which should be addressed with service dog legislation: 1) The right of the public to be protected from incompetent, unsafe, or bothersome animals. 2) The right of a person with disabilities to be accompanied by a proficient and publicly inoffensive service dog wherever able bodied persons are allowed. It would be unfair to subject the public to unqualified service dogs. It would also be unfair to suggest that because an animal was not trained by "XYZ" training school it can not be in public regardless of its proficiency and helpfulness to its owner. A more equitable and cost effective method to protect public as well as personal rights would set standards to be met by dog and handler.

We have seen "professionally" trained dogs fail miserably on their "off days". We have seen privately trained dogs perform well beyond expectation. It matters little where the dog is trained, but standards must be established and met. We need service dog training in our state. We need full acceptance of these animals by the public, state, and federal sectors. Denying access to a qualified dog and disabled person should be a crime. But we do not need legislation that restricts where the skills of these animals are developed; only that such publicly sanctioned skills are exhibited by these animals.

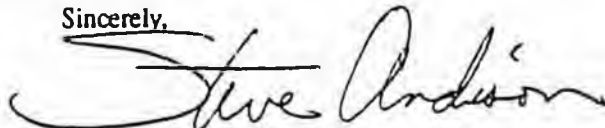
I have no problem with language that seeks to protect the public by requiring animals in public be "qualified" to perform their tasks. I don't even object to the term "certified." However, it is the dog's abilities that should be certified, not the school nor the trainer.

A dog who will: sit, stay, come, be quiet, get help, and pick up dropped keys is just as valuable to a disabled person and safe in public regardless of who taught the dog to do those things. It is the state's responsibility to assure the public that dogs in public settings are qualified to be there. However, if the state attempts to legislate who is qualified to teach these dogs, then it has stepped out of its role as public protector and into the role of "big brother."

I do not mean to point out only the negative points of this proposed legislation. There are also great positive aspects of HB 170. I would be honored to have the opportunity to lend ideas toward the next version of this bill.

Again, I commend this draft of HB 170 (as of today's date) as an excellent start to addressing an important issue. Qualified dogs are important to those whom they serve and should not be barred from public areas during essential "real world" training. I hope, however, that there is additional refinement and protection of individual's rights before this bill becomes state law.

Sincerely,



Steve Andison

cc:

HB 170 Sponsor
Rep. Tom Brice



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the S. HESS
committee name

committee on HB 170, dated 1-23-97
bill/subject

Dear HESS Committee & Repr. Tom Brice,
 Thank you for HB 170 concerning service animals
 + service animals in training. This bill is very
 important + needs to be approved.
 I have had three service dogs in my ~~last~~ ^{life} lifetime
 as an hearing impaired person. all three dogs have
 since died & I need a new dog, a service animal
 that is both smart, eager + able-bodied, adapt at
 dealing with many different situations quickly +
 efficiently. My life is in their hands.
 This law would help greatly. ~~as~~ # one, I deal
 with the public extensively, my future dog needs to
 be around people of all walks of life, because I am
 # two, I have been denied entrance to places, because
 people didn't think my service animal + service animal
 in training should be there. This hurts both their trainin
 + both our feelings. Most places + place once educated,
 do not mind giving us entrance into + wherever afterward
 Thank you for your time
 + thoughtfulness. Sincerely
 Helen M. Craig

Signed: Helen M. Craig
 Testifier
Advocate for the Disabled + "Silent Bridges"
 Representing (Optional)
613 D. Hoff St. Sitka, AK.
 Address
907-747-5917
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SHES
committee name
 committee on HB 170, dated 1-23-98
bill # / subject

State certification for raisers of service - animals-in-training is not necessary at this point. Raisers of legitimate dogs from schools outside of Alaska have a certification and identification card issued to them by the actual guide dog trainers.

This issue is not crucial at this point. If a raiser is training a puppy from a licensed school, then they already are "certified". Raisers in the 4-H program receive training and guidance from many 4-H leaders as well as the school's trainers.

Our identification cards are carried with us everywhere we take our dogs, and we willing produce them to any ^{business owner} that requests.

Signed: Amorette Kennedy (Amorette Kennedy)

Testifier

4-H Guide Dog Raisers

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 11 Ninilchik, AK 99639

Address

907-567-3310

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SHES
committee name

committee on HB170, dated 1-23-98.
bill # / subject

Guide dog raisers do carry
identification. The guide dog school I
gives raiser a "guide dog raiser
certification/identification" card to be
~~used~~ in a case of legitimacy doubt.

Signed: Jessica Lomen (Jessica Lomen)
Testifier

Guide dog raisers
Representing (Optional)

Box 4191 Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

(907) 262-9049
Phone number

Testimony on HB170

Cheryl B. Hull

Good morning, Senators:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you regarding HB170.

My name is Cheryl Hull. I am Assistant Director at Southeast Alaska Independent Living. I am also the SAIL program coordinator for the Older Blind Alaskans in southeast.

I would like to say that SAIL is very glad that the issue of service animals is being addressed by our Legislature. It is an important issue for people who have disabilities. For some people with disabilities, their lives and their independence are vastly improved with the aid of a service animal.

We have come a long way from just having guide dogs for the blind. We now see animals trained to help the deaf "hear," to help those who are in wheelchairs to

be better able to do things they used to have to rely upon others to do for them—picking things up off the floor, turning on and off lights, bringing the phone to the owner when it rings, sometimes even helping to move the wheelchair from place to place.

It is imperative that puppies who are training to become service animals become accustomed to all kinds of situations—malls, traffic in, airplanes, ferries, people. In order to be properly trained, they must be exposed to situations which they will eventually confront. Basic obedience and pre-training allow this.

Several of SAIL's consumers have expressed concern that the animals that they have been training themselves will have to go outside Alaska to receive specialized training—in other words, go to a school, out of state—for an extended period of time, to receive that school's certification.

I would like to point out to you that the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 provided for the use of service animals by the disabled by requiring only that the animal be a “qualified” animal, not a certified one. By using the word “qualified,” those who want to train their animals themselves with community assistance may do so—but the animal must behave appropriately—and be identified in some way—as a service animal. In other words, a standard is more important than certification. The animal must be obedience-trained and then trained to a high standard in its particular discipline.

At present, most puppies being socialized in Alaska are sent down south, trained further, and given to the next person on a school’s prioritized list. Most of those animals do not come back to Alaska to be used by Alaskans.

There are several reasons so many of our consumers are interested in having their animals locally trained: the terrain here is different, the weather and lighting conditions in Alaska are unique, in most southeast communities, roads are not paved and concrete sidewalks don't exist. Also, I work with many Alaskans 55 years of age and older. One of my consumers has been trying to get a dog for more than a year. Because he is older and lives in a remote area, he is not considered a high priority, and he has been denied a dog from three schools. This man is in good health, likes to travel, but has lost much of his vision. He has been told that the waiting time for a dog for a man his age is at least six years. That is a long wait.

Over the past year, SAIL has been working with Gastineau Humane Society, beginning to train animals from the pound to serve as service animals. We hope to be able to serve two purposes here: 1) provide a well-

trained service animal for someone who needs it, and 2) save a good animal from being put down.

At present, we have one dog which is being trained to be a hearing dog. Bailey is learning basic obedience at this time. She is also being socialized. Right now, she spends her time in the office, learning appropriate behavior. In the near future, SAIL hopes she will be the "ears" for a deaf person. Bailey is being trained here in Alaska--in fact, right here in Juneau--by local trainers, and by the person with whom she may be placed. After her training, she will be a qualified service animal and the legislation needs to address this. SAIL hopes to be able, eventually, to provide this service to our consumers who need service animals.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I appreciate your time.

cc:Mail for: Senator Gary Wilken

Subject: HB 170 - HESS Committee Hearing
From: sailinc@ptalaska.net (Connie Anderson) at CC2MHS1 1/23/98 6:56 AM
To: Senator Gary Wilken at LAA_CAP
cc: Senator Loren Leman at LAA_SLEM
cc: Senator Lyda Green at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator Jerry Ward at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator Johnny Ells at LAA_TRANS

As Executive Director of Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), I strongly support HB 170 (Service Animals for Physically & Mentally Challenged). I hope you will vote to pass this bill through committee at your meeting this morning. This is an important bill which will allow service animals in training to be able to continue the initial obedience, socialization, and environmental training so that these animals can successfully serve people with disabilities.

This bill has no cost to the State of Alaska. It will assist programs such as SAIL in continuing their efforts to provide qualified service animals, experienced in a variety of situations unique to Alaska, for people with disabilities.

I appreciate your efforts to support this bill. If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact SAIL in Juneau at 789-9665.

Sincerely,
Constance E. Anderson
Executive Director

Teresa A. Smith
PO Box 230
Anchor Point, Alaska 99558
Home Phone 907 567 1051

February 03, 1998

Gary Wilken: .

Please pass Bill 170. I have helped train dogs and there is a need to take the animals into different areas to socialize them. I have not trained guide dogs, but have worked drug dogs. The same principles apply to both training situations.

Sincerely,

Teresa Smith

Your name goes here

Pom

William Smith

PO Box 230
Anchor Point, Alaska 99558
Home Phone 907 567 1051

February 03, 1998

Gary Wilkens:

I am a professional dog trainer. I have trained drug dogs and police K-9 dogs. These animals need to be socialized to different situations and places during their training. The earlier the socialization, the better. Can you imagine a police K-9 that fears going into dark buildings? That usually does not happen because they are trained to that situation early on. They have to become familiar with different situations to protect their "master". The same applies to guide dogs. They must be socialized to different situations at an early age just like human children.

I urge you to pass Bill 170.

Sincerely,

William Smith

Wm



Roe's Charter Service

To: Legislatures Office
Company:
Fax number: +1 (907) 283-3075
Business phone:

From: Richard Roe
Fax number: +1 (907) 5673616
Business phone:
Home phone: 907-567-3496

Date & Time: 2/2/98 2:15:19 PM
Pages: 1
Re: House Bill 170

Pass bill 170 for the guide dogs in training.
Rich & Connie Roe

ATTN: SHES COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY FOR HB170

2/2/98

Pass Bill 170 for the Guide
Dogs. in training the same
right as trained Guide Dogs

Melan V Pass.

Please pass bill #170. This is very important
part. of the training.

Thank you
Teresa Sullivan
PO Box 358
Anchor Point AK 99556
567 3648

Amorette Kennedy
P.O. Box 11
Nauyasuk, AK 99639

Dear Legislators

Currently, I am raising a Guide Dog for the Blind. I have been involved in this incredible project for 13 months now, with 2 more to go.

Raisers are highly responsible individuals, and our dogs are well behaved. Each dog receives obedience training; and must be calm, confident, and reliable before its raiser will even expose it to a business setting.

Socialization is vital to the training of service animals. The dogs cannot be expected to be comfortable in new situations if they have not had frequent exposure as puppies. If the dogs are not confident and reliable, they will not become guides. And most importantly, for each dog that does not graduate due to lack of socializing, there is one disabled person who will not be given the gift of independence we all take for granted.

Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

Amorette Kennedy
4-H Guide-Dog in training Raiser

Lynn Kennedy
P. O. Box 11
Nunilchik, AK 99649

February 2, 1998

Dear Legislators,

My daughter has been raising a guide dog for the blind for the past 13 months. Most businesses have permitted her to bring the dog in (with his training jacket on), but some were quite confused as to whether it was legal. Businesses want to do what is right and HB 170 will help clarify what is both right and legal. A lot of polite public relations will still be needed, but legislation would clearly benefit the mission to train service animals.

Please support HB 170.

Sincerely,

Lynn Kennedy

Kathryn R. Kennedy
P.O. Box 11
Ninilchik, Alaska 99699

February 2, 1998

Dear Alaska State Legislature,

I urge you to support HB 170 which would allow service dogs in training to enter public establishments. The exposure and experience they need for success can hardly be gained otherwise.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kennedy

I ASK THAT YOU PLEASE SUPPORT BILL # 170

SERVICE ANIMALS IN TRAINING

These animals aren't trained to become someone's pet,
they are trained to become someone's life, their eyes their
ears; their freedom to move about. Thank you.

Mary Wren
219 W Corral
Soldotna AK 99669

262-9808

Please support House Bill 170.

The socialization component of a service animal in training is key to the success of the animal later in the formal training. For the animal to learn about the world it must be out in the world. For a guide dog raiser to really be aware of what their puppy is fearful of, they must be allowed access to as many types of establishments as possible. Each outing, each experience teaches a puppy something very valuable.

When out in public the raiser carries an identification card that identifies them as a certified raiser. The puppies are listed on this ID card by name, breed and sex. They are also identified by a training jacket which is required while out in public. This jacket serves as visual identification for the public that the guide dog is in training as well a device that teaches the puppy that she is working. This jacket will be replaced with a harness when the puppy returns to the school for formal training.

An access law in Alaska for service animals in training would help our guide dog raisers do the job they are committed to doing.

Thank you for your time.

Linda Athons
P.O. Box 3521
Soldotna, AK 99669

Pass bill 170 for the Guide Dog
in training the same right as
trained Guide Dog

Brenda Dawson

Pass bill 170 for the Guide Dog
in training the same right as trained
Guide Dog.

Robert W. Jensen

Please pass Senate Bill #170
Guide Dogs in Training.
This is very important because
those who are blind need these
dogs.

Lenore E. Jones
P.O. Box 39221
Ninilchik, Ak. 99639
567-3653

Pass bill 170 for the Guide dogs in training
the same rights as trained dogs. This is
important part of their training. Because
some day we just might need ~~it~~ them.

Jicki Deane
P.O. Box 39242
Nenahchik, Ak
99639

Senate (Alaska State)

Please pass SB170 this session. We old people
may need Guide Dogs in the future and
they need to be trained before we need one.

Albert A. Lambert

Marguerite E. Lambert

HC 67 Box 105

Anchor Point, AK

Please pass bill 170. The dog must
to be trained to be guide dog ~~so~~ as they
need to have the same rights as Guide
Dogs.

Tracy Owen
P.O. Box 39242
Nenah, AK
99639

I am hoping you will pass the bill #170
giving the some privileges as any other guide
dog would have to guide dogs in training

thank you kindly
Deanna Smith

please pass SB 170; Thank you.

James A. Mutni
Box 39526
Ninilchik AK 99639
1-907-567-3312

Please pass SB. 170
concerning dogs for the blind —

Ernestine Martin
P.O. Box 39526
Ninilchik, AK
99639

2-2-98

Pass Bill 170 for the Guide Dogs
in training, the same right as trained
Guide Dogs.

Carl O'Leary

I am interested in the Guide Day
training program. We hope you
will give Bill 170 your approval
& make it give the same privileges
as any Guide Day.

Thank You
Gloria Hamilton

Pass bill 170 for
Guid Dogs
Thanks.

Geo Blount

K. K. HOSSETTER

P.O. Box. 33

NINILCHIK AK

99639

PLEASE PASS BILL 170

THANK YOU!

Richard B. Hossetter Sr

Please pass bill ^{HB-}170 for Guide Dogs
in Training

Diane Cooney

Please pass House Bill (H.B. 170)
Alfred L. James
Minister to Alaska

SENATORS

PLEASE

PASS BILL # 170

GUIDE ANIMALS

REBECCA OBILE HANSON

P.O. Box 39158

NINILCHIK ALASKA 99639

907-567-3625

horizons@PTI.net

Pass bill #170 for Guide Dogs
in training as equal to Guide dogs.

THANK YOU!

REGINA TAYLOR
POB 39266
NINIKCHIK AK
99639-0266

SERVICE ANIMAL IN TRAINING

SOME OF US ALASKA PEOPLE ARE RAISING PUPPY TO BE GUIDE DOG. WE NEED ACCESS TO PUBLIC PLACE IN ALASKA. THERE ARE RAISER WHO HAS BEEN DENIED ENTRANCE INTO PUBLIC PLACE. THEIR ARE NO WAY TO TRAIN A GUIDE DOG IF WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC PLACES.

HERE IS SOME INFO. ABOUT PEOPLE WHO HAVE GUIDES. THEIR STORIES.

SO PLEAS PASS BILL NO.170. THANK YOU

RUBY SCHMIDTBAUER AND YUKON
P.O. BOX 306 NINILCHIK, AK 9963

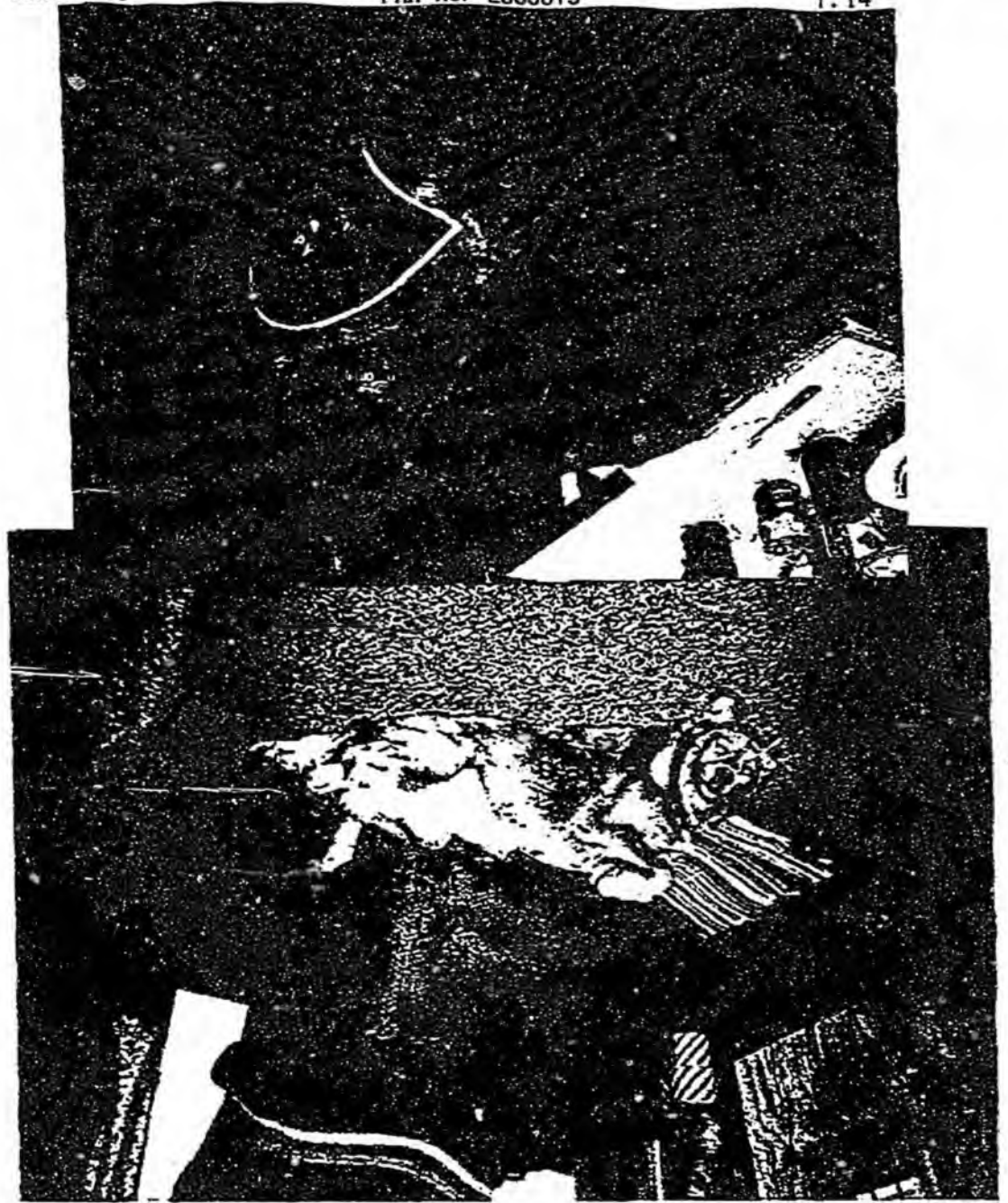
PS. THE DOGS THAT COME FROM PALM SPRINGS, CA. ARE GREAT DOGS. WE LOVED YUKON SO VERY MUCH. AND HE LOVES US. THEY ARE ALL 4-H DOGS. THEY ARE A LOT OF BLINE PEOPLE THAT NEEDS GUIDES. YOU COULD RAISE ONE TO .

Paul S.

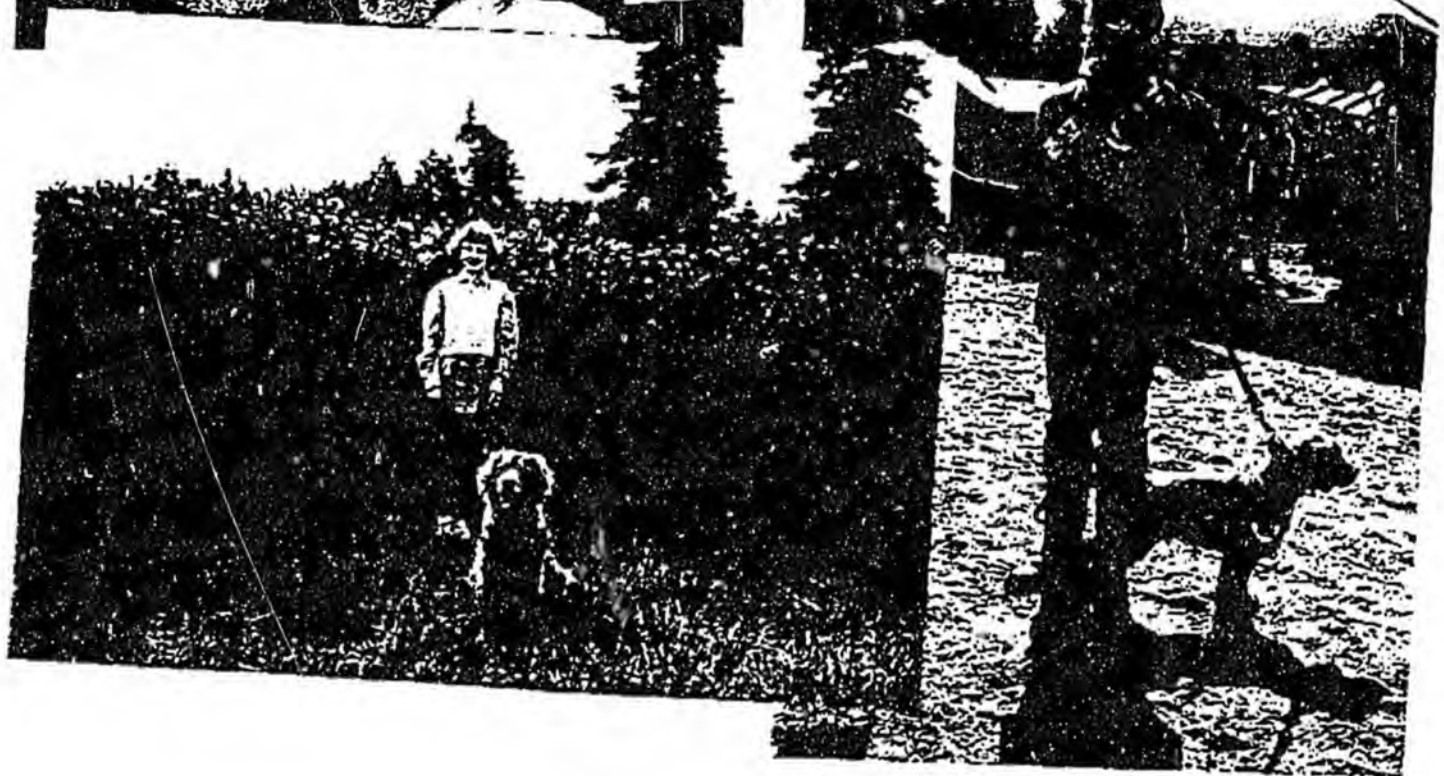
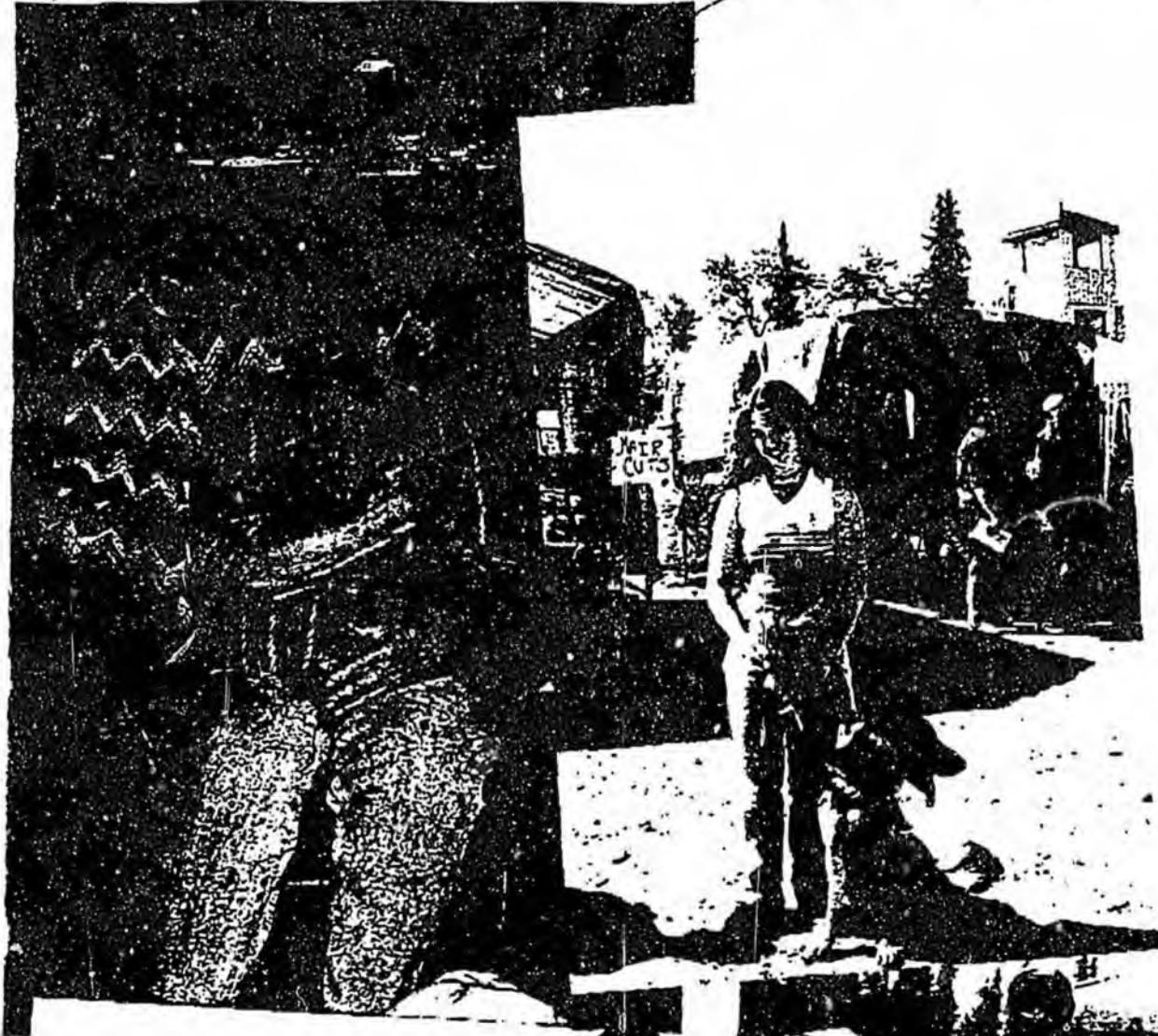
2-2-98

Pass Bill 170 for Guide dogs
in training the same rights
as trained Dogs trained for Guide
dogs Dayton Mess

*Merrill Roberts & Sarah Roberts
P.O. Box 111
Kenai, Alaska*



Winnipeg's Great Lodges



*I'm not asked for myself
for blind people.*
SERVICE ANIMAL IN TRAINING

SOME OF US ALASKA PEOPLE ARE RAISING PUPPY TO BE GUIDE DOG. WE NEED ACCESS TO PUBLIC PLACE IN ALASKA. THERE ARE RAISER WHO HAS BEEN DENIED ENTRANCE INTO PUBLIC PLACE. THEIR ARE NO WAY TO TRAIN A GUIDE DOG IF WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC PLACES.

HERE IS SOME INFO. ABOUT PEOPLE WHO HAVE GUIDES. THEIR STORIES.

SO PLEAS PASS BILL NO.170. THANK YOU

RUBY SCHMIDTBAUER AND YUKON
P.O. BOX 306 NINILCHIK, AK 9963

PS. THE DOGS THAT COME FROM PALM SPRINGS, CA. ARE GREAT DOGS. WE LOVED YUKON SO VERY MUCH. AND HE LOVES US. THEY ARE ALL 4-H DOGS. THEY ARE A LOT OF BLINE PEOPLE THAT NEEDS GUIDES. YOU COULD RAISE ONE TO .



Ruby Schmidtbauer

*2
me,
old*

16 me. old.



P.O. Box 1692
Palm Springs, California 92263





Guide Dogs of The Desert Needs Your Support

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Although our membership drive kicks off in December of each year, memberships are available year round. A contribution of \$25.00 for an individual membership is equal to fifty cents a week. Each member receives a membership patch with the year. The patch is a different color each year and can be proudly worn on a jacket or hat. Some thoughtful individuals give memberships as birthday or Christmas gifts and donations in the name of friends or relatives. A patch and a window decal in the name of the donor will be sent to the person remembered. Your membership is very important in sustaining the work we do. Become a member today.

SERVICE CLUBS

Service organizations qualify for a Service Club Patch with a minimum club donation of \$100.00. There are three levels of giving, the first level (white and blue patch) is a minimum of \$100.00 to \$249.00; the second level (silver and blue patch) is \$250.00 to \$749.00; the third level (gold and blue patch) is for donations of \$750.00 and up. The patch is designed to be applied to your club banner and it is our way of saying "thank you" for your outstanding support. Our staff and volunteers are always available to present programs for your meetings.



BUSINESS SPONSORS

This year we designed a window decal for businesses to display. Your business can display the four inch diameter decal in a window or on the door. The response from the business community with sponsorships of the 9th Annual Walk-A-Thon helped make this year a huge success. This generous support provides mobility, independence and companionship to blind men and women. For a minimum of one hundred dollars, your business can be a Guide Dog of The Desert Sponsor. Please ask for the sponsor decal when you send in your donation.

SPONSOR

As Guide Dogs of the Desert starts our next twenty-five years, the new "Leichstz-g-Silverstein Student Housing" will allow us to provide independence and mobility to many more blind individuals at absolutely no charge to them. We will need the continued support of existing sponsors and friends to help us make our new expansion program a success.



TRAINING GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Sue Greco, Laurie Brooks and Jim Hyatt have been carrying the Guide Dogs of the Desert story to many events in California and Arizona since February. Puppy Raisers and volunteers have helped man the booth at the Indio Date Festival; American Pet Show, Pomona; Canyon Lake Lions and Lioness Golf Tournament; Maricopa County Fair in Arizona; Inland Empire Association of Health Underwriter "Desert Empire Satellite"; Rialto Health and Pet Fair; Del Webb Sun City, Palm Desert, Fourth Annual Volunteer Fair. These expos acquaint the public with what guide dogs can do and bring new puppy raisers and supporters into the Guide Dogs of the Desert family.

TRAINING GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

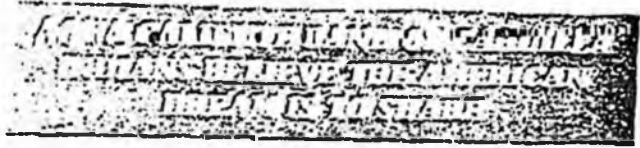
A new Guide Dogs of the Desert support group has formed in the East End of the Coachella Valley. The mission of this East Valley group is Sharing the Vision. Twelve charter members attended the first meeting on the May 15th at Del Webb Sun City, Palm Desert, California. They are planning one to three annual events. The addition of these supporters is another exciting step forward in our 25th anniversary year.



Guide Dogs of the Desert Club

SUMMER FLING

Dinner and Dance



Guide Dogs of the Desert is privileged to be recognized by the Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in the Coachella Valley.




Representative Tom Brice

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

119 N. Cushman, Ste. 205
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-456-7423 / Fax: 451-7293
While in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-3466

Date: May 8, 1998

To: Senator Gary Wilkens
Chairman, Senate Health, Education and
Social Services Committee

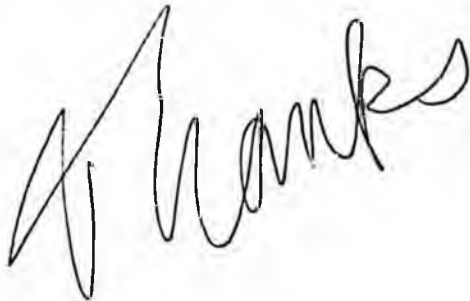
From: Representative Tom Brice 

RE: Synopsis of House Bill 170

The issue addressed by the original version and the current Senate Finance version of HB 170 is access eventhough the Finance committee's version is a more narrow interpretation of the original bill intent.

Relative to the Judiciary version, I agree a statewide certification program should be studied and at some point implemented. I do not believe there is enough consensus among the training community on how a program should be developed to be implemented by HB 170.

HB 170 in its current form provides a provision for liability if an animal destroys property. HB 170 provides a provision which addresses identification of training animals. HB 170 provides a criteria for penalties if someone interferes with the service animal's training. In short, HB 170 provides a framework for service animals to gain access to the facilities of the state of Alaska.



March 6, 1998



To: Alaska Legislators

From: *Jim Douglas* Jim Douglas 4-H Program Chair

Re: Service Animal Legislation

In an attempt to get access to private and public buildings for service animals HB 170 was introduced. The HESS version of the bill was acceptable to the 4-H program, but the version that passed out of Judiciary and through Rules is an affront to over twenty years of outstanding work by 4-H members and volunteers to raise guide dog puppies.

The 4-H program has been in the guide dog raising business for over 40 years. We have programs in every state in the U.S. In all cases we are the agency who certifies and trains our leaders and members with dogs. The 4-H program does not need a certification program. We have been the most successful program in the U.S. in raising guide dog puppies. In Alaska our 4-H program is associated with Guide Dogs for the Desert out of Palm Springs, California. They provide materials that help us certify and train their puppies.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES CERTIFICATION

Cost

It now costs \$800 to \$1000 for volunteers to raise a guide or service dog for the eighteen months prior to its final training back at the guide dog or service dog school. The families that raise these dogs do so at a great sacrifice to their family budget. Adding a health and social services cost to what is already a very expensive community service is unnecessary. The 4-H program has a screening process as well as a recommended training process in place that works.

Identification

4-H guide dogs are identified with a blue and white coat that says Guide Dog Puppy and with a 4-H clover. 4-H members carry identification. If any other identification were used as planned in the bill, 4-H could well lose its identity and would certainly lose control over the program.

Swiftness of Service

At this time when a prospective 4-H member or leader wants to have a guide dog, 4-H agents or volunteers are required to go out to the home and while the family is still interested we certify them and have the dog on order. If H&SS were involved we would have to wait until they could certify the family and then we would still have to certify because of our liability insurance. H&SS becomes an extra cost as well as an extra step in what was already a smooth running operation.

ACTION REQUESTED

Ask that you vote for HB 170 as it came out of HESS and not the bill that came out of Judiciary.

If you approve the bill out of Judiciary, amend the bill to exempt the 4-H program from the certification process or remove the sections that refers to service animals in training being certified by H&SS.

Thank you for your support.

Alaska Cooperative Extension • University of Alaska Fairbanks & USDA Cooperating

1108 F Street, Suite 130 • Juneau, Alaska 99801 • Phone: (907) 465-8749 • FAX: (907) 465-8742



P. O. Box 1692
Palm Springs, CA 92263
(619) 329-6257

PUPPY RAISER'S FACT SHEET

As a puppy raiser, you should be aware that there are many pros and cons of raising a guide dog puppy. These puppies are right now ordinary puppies who will chew, bark and whine. They are not housebroken. They have been screened and accepted as donations or procured through our own breeding program. Raising a puppy can be fun and rewarding but it can also get difficult and tiresome.

Make sure that everyone in the household likes the idea and agrees to raising the pup. Raising the pup is truly a family affair. Although one individual may be assigned the responsibilities, the whole family will have to adjust and participate. The entire family will hear the pup cry and whine the first few nights, smell occasional accidents, and have articles belonging to them chewed on.

You will receive the pup at approximately 8 to 10 weeks of age and keep it until it is between 12 to 18 months of age. The puppy will have started its inoculations against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza and canine parvo virus. The puppy will have been dewormed, but will need a rabies inoculation at 4 months of age.

Your guide dog puppy will need **LOVE AND SOCIALIZATION** more than anything else. You are expected to housebreak the pup, and fully socialize it to people, animals, traffic, noises, strange surroundings and surfaces. Riding in cars comfortably is also important. We encourage basic obedience training to aid in the pup's socialization program and for general control purposes, but don't overdo it.

Fleas and ticks are the number one problem experienced by raisers. It is of paramount importance that the pup be kept flea and tick free to prevent any allergic reaction from developing.

Female puppies will come into season between 6 and 14 months of age. This is a bloody discharge period of 21 days and the only time a dog will be able to "get pregnant". Please make arrangements to secure the pup during this time (you may bring it to the school to be boarded.) Males will be altered around 8 to 10 months unless they are being considered for the breeding program. These expenses will be reimbursed up to \$50.00 or provided by our own veterinarian.

GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT, INC.
P.O. Box 1692, Palm Springs, California 92263
(619) 329-6257

APPLICATION TO RAISE A GUIDE DOG PUPPY .

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____ Age: _____

Are there children in the home? _____ Their ages _____

Address _____

Environment: City ___ Suburban ___ Rural ___

Name of parent if applicant under 18 years old: _____

Telephone: Home (_____) Work (_____) Mr./Mrs./Ms.

(circle one)

1. Where did you hear about our puppy raising program? _____

2. Have you ever raised a dog before? _____ A dog for the blind? _____

When and from which school? _____

What became of that dog? _____

3. If you have a pet/pets, please give type, dog breeds, ages and sexes: _____

4. Do you have a fenced yard or enclosed area to relieve the puppy? _____

5. Do you agree to allow the puppy to live in your house and sleep in your bedroom? _____ (Initial)

GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT, INC. provide inoculations and worming if you bring the puppy to the training facility. If pups are not considered for breeding stock, GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT, INC will reimburse for neutering up to \$50.00 or provide for neutering by our own veterinarian. GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT, INC. will provide occasional boarding at the facility, including boarding of females in season.

6. Do you agree to pay for normal veterinary expenses? _____ (Initial)

The raiser is responsible to provide a loving atmosphere and socialization and to teach the pup appropriate house behavior. The approximate cost to the raiser is \$500.00. This cost is a donation and may be tax deductible.

7. I understand and agree this puppy shall remain the property of Guide Dogs of the Desert, Inc. and agree to return the puppy to Guide Dogs of the Desert, Inc. as requested for evaluation, neutering and when the puppy is needed for training. _____ (Initial)

8. I have read and agree to the conditions outlined in the attached copy of the "Puppy Raiser's Fact Sheet". _____ (Initial)

9. I agree to participate in Puppy and school events held throughout Southern California whenever possible. _____ (Initial)

10. What date are you available to receive a puppy? (usually there is a 6 month wait) _____

11. Breed Preference: () Golden Retriever () Female
 () Labrador Retriever () Male
 () German Shepherd

Signature of applicant(s): _____

Parent signature (if applicant is under 18 years of age) _____

Alaska Extension Agent _____

Application Procedure
for the
Alaska Guide Dog Puppy Project

- 1) Person (14 or older) or a family expresses a very strong interest, contacts District Extension Agent or Area Guide Dog Puppy Project Leader.
- 2) Extension Agent or Area Guide Dog Puppy Project Leader provides person with Puppy Raiser's Fact Sheet and Application to Raise a Guide Dog Puppy.
- 3) Person fills out the application and contacts the Area Guide Dog Puppy Project Leader to set up a date for a Home Interview with the whole family and family pet(s). Applicant must join 4-H either as a member (youth) or a leader (adult.)
- 4) Area Guide Dog Puppy Project Leader makes a recommendation on the bottom of the application. If the family meets with the Project Leaders approval provide them with a copy of the Puppy Raiser's Manual so they can become familiar with it while they wait for their puppy.
Note: There may be a time when you will have to decline a request. It is difficult but keep in mind the best interest of the puppy, that family and the Alaska Guide Dog Puppy Program.
- 5) Give a copy of the approved application to the local Cooperative Extension Agent for their records and send one to the State Coordinator of the Guide Dog Puppy Project: Linda Athons, 34824 K-Beach Rd., Suite A, Soldotna, AK 99669.
- 6) The State Coordinator will send a copy of the application to Guide Dogs of the Desert (GDD) for them to process.
- 7) GDD will contact the raiser directly when a puppy is available.
- 8) GDD will alert the State Coordinator of the available puppy and travel arrangements will be made by the State Coordinator for the puppy to travel to Alaska. Alaska Airlines donates the cost of transporting our puppies.
- 9) The raiser should contact the local Cooperative Extension Agent to notify him/her of the puppy's arrival.
- 10) Let the raising begin!!

Linda Athons
12/15/97