

**HB**

**170**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/5/98

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 3-4-98

Judiciary 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 SCS CSHB 170 (JUD) ~~SCS CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 170 (JUD)~~
- 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 <u>DO PASS</u>	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>John Starnell</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>J. Sellers</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>[Signature]</i>					
CHAIR: <i>John L. Taylor</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CHAIR:			

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department                      Date      Zero      Fiscal


**PREVIOUS <sup>SENATE</sup> FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department                      Date      Zero      Fiscal

<i>#2 LAW/CRIM DIV.</i>	<i>2-5-98</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

BILL: HB 170 SHORT TITLE: SERVICE ANIMALS FOR PHYS/MENT. CHALLENGED  
BILL VERSION: CSHB 170 (HES)  
SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) BRICE, Croft, Ryan; SENATOR(S) Wilken, Leman  
Taylor

CURRENT STATUS: (S) JUD

STATUS DATE: 02/05/98

TITLE: "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."

03/05/97	545	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
03/05/97	545	(H)	HES, JUDICIARY, FINANCE
04/02/97	907	(H)	HES RPT CS (HES) NT 2DP 3NR
04/02/97	908	(H)	DP: BUNDE, BRICE; NR: GREEN, VEZEY,
04/02/97	908	(H)	KEMPLEN
04/02/97	908	(H)	ZERO FISCAL NOTE (LAW)
05/06/97	1580	(H)	JUD REFERRAL WAIVED
05/07/97	1636	(H)	FIN REFERRAL WAIVED
05/08/97	1662	(H)	RULES TO CALENDAR 5/8/97
05/08/97	1662	(H)	READ THE SECOND TIME
05/08/97	1663	(H)	HES CS ADOPTED UNAN CONSENT
05/08/97	1663	(H)	ADVANCED TO THIRD READING UNAN CONSENT
05/08/97	1663	(H)	READ THE THIRD TIME CSHB 170 (HES)
05/08/97	1663	(H)	PASSED Y37 N1 A2
05/08/97	1702	(H)	COSPONSOR(S): CROFT, RYAN
05/08/97	1703	(H)	TRANSMITTED TO (S)
05/09/97	1889	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
05/09/97	1889	(S)	HES, JUDICIARY
01/23/98	2281	(S)	CROSS SPONSOR(S): WILKEN, LEMAN, TAYLOR
02/05/98	2405	(S)	HES RPT SCS 3DP 1NR SAME TITLE
02/05/98	2406	(S)	DP: LEMAN, ELLIS, WILKEN NR: GREEN
02/05/98	2406	(S)	ZERO FN TO SCS (LAW)
02/05/98	2406	(S)	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY

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02/05/98	2406	(S)	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY



**Representative Tom Brice**  
**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**

119 N. Cushman, Ste. 205  
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) allows service animals into public establishments, too often young service animals are turned away from these establishments due to the existing law being arbitrary. HB 170 extends this law to include the young animals in training. Service animals perform functions and tasks that an individual with a disability cannot perform for her or himself. These young animals need the same exposure as trained service animals if they are expected to perform those tasks.



# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

## MEMORANDUM

January 27, 1998

**SUBJECT:** HB 170 (Service animals)

**TO:** Representative Tom Brice  
Attn: Joe Hayes

**FROM:** Terri Lauterbach  
Legislative Counsel

In your memorandum of January 23, 1998, you asked whether there would be enforcement problems involved if either of the following two amendments was added to HB 170:

(1) language that said all certified service animals and service-animals-in-training were to be identified by garments, bracelets, etc...;

(2) language that allowed individuals with disabilities, not affiliated with any organizations or groups, to be allowed access to facilities while training their own service animals for personal use.

With respect to proposed amendment (1), as long as the rest of the bill is retained (requiring reasonable evidence of being a person authorized to train service animals with "authorized" meaning employed by a school, agency, or other facility that trains service animals), I see no enforcement problems, but it does leave me with questions. Who would determine what the special identification would be? Do you intend that the identification would be specified in statute? Are you sure that one type would work for all service animals?

With respect to proposed amendment (2), I can foresee difficulties unless there is some way to certify or verify that the animal is being trained for use by the disabled person and is not simply a pet. Dropping the association with certified training schools would seem to me to leave it open for anyone to claim that a pet should be allowed to accompany him/her into a restaurant or other facility because they can argue that they are training the animal. Unless there is a physician's or state agency's certification that the person is disabled and/or a training organization's certification of either the person as a trainer or of the animal as an animal-in-training, I'm not sure how a facility is supposed to keep anyone from bringing an animal into the facility without risking a violation of the law.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

TML:glc  
98-037.glc



# Representative Tom Brice

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Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
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### Memorandum

Date: February 12, 1998

To: Senator Robin Taylor  
Chairman, Senate Judicial Committee

From: Representative Tom Brice *TB*

RE: Amendments to HB 170

I have included amendments made in Senate HESS and an explanation of what the amendment accomplishes:

Amendment 1. P2 line 23 delete places add facilities. Amendment Changes the bill from all public places to government property.

Amendment 2. P2 line 25 delete places add facilities. Same as above.

Amendment 3. P2 lines 30-31 New Language - intended to give managers authorization to remove disruptive service animals in training and their trainers.

Amendment 4. P3 lines 1-5 New Language - addressing the same issue as lines 30-31. Further clarification on what circumstances would warrant removal.

Amendment 5. P3 lines 9-11 New definition to clarify identification for being an in training service animal.

Amendment 6. P3 lines 16-19 New definition on what constitutes a public facility.

Amendment 7. P3 line 20 delete class B misdemeanor add violation.



# FISCAL NOTE

No. 2  
 Bill Version: SCS CSHB 170 (HES)  
 (S) Publish Date: 2-5-98

STATE OF ALASKA  
 1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date (Note if correction) _____	Dept. Affected <u>Law</u>
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>2198-99/2261/79/01/03</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						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
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>	Phone <u>465-5370</u>
Division <u>Attorney General's Office</u>	Date <u>1/28/98</u>
Approved by Commissioner <u>Bruce M. Botelho</u> , Attorney General	Date <u>1/28/98</u>
Agency <u>Department of Law</u>	

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# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CS HB 170 (HES)

Revision Date (Note if correction) _____	Dept. Affected _____	Law _____
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Sponsor <u>Representative Brice</u>	Component _____	Criminal Division _____
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CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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## Man's best friend sparks political battle

by David Washburn  
Senior Voice contributing  
editor

Ruby Schmidbauer probably wouldn't have guessed when she agreed to raise a pup for a service dog program that the dog would lead her into a political battle.

But when a manager refused to let her take the dog into his restaurant, Schmidbauer joined with other Alaskans in a call for new laws to allow access to public places for dogs being trained for "seeing eye" and other types of work for the disabled.

Schmidbauer and her husband, Paul, received their pup, a golden retriever named Yukon, through a 411 program that places puppies in Alaskan homes. Volunteers in the program raise the pups until they are 18 months old, following specific guidelines to prepare them for training as service dogs. The volunteers pay all the costs of raising the dog, and must sign a contract stating they will return the dog when it is of age.

The program gets the puppies from Guide Dogs of the Desert, a Palm Springs, California, dog training school. Volunteers get the puppies when they are eight to 10 weeks old, and when the dogs are 18 months old, they are returned to the school.



Ruby Schmidbauer and husband, Paul, with Yukon

Their health and behavior is evaluated to determine whether they are suitable for the specialized training required for service work. When training is finished, the school places the dogs with disabled owners.

Because standards are so exacting, only about half of the dogs actually become working service dogs, Schmidbauer said. "They claim that by the

time these dogs are trained, they're worth \$25,000."

Schmidbauer said Yukon immediately became part of the family.

"We hadn't had a dog for 15 years," she said.

"Since he's been six months old, we've taken him everywhere we go."

Service dogs must be accustomed to the sounds and distractions of everyday life, so owners of dogs-in-training are expected to take them along whether they're going shopping, fishing, to the movies, or traveling.

Although seeing Yukon in a restaurant or grocery store would usually raise some eyebrows, most people were delighted, and marveled over the dog's good manners, Schmidbauer said.

However, when they tried to take Yukon into one Homer restaurant last winter, management was not as understanding.

"I just didn't even think about it," Schmidbauer said. "We took him everywhere. I took him into the bathroom first, because he has to learn to go in and wait for you, just like he would for a blind person. When we came out and went out and waited to be

seated, one of the owners came out and said, 'you can't bring your dog in.'"

Schmidbauer explained her situation, and even retrieved some dog identification papers from the car, but the management wouldn't budge.

Linda Athons, who coordinates the 411 Kenai program, said that such occurrences are not uncommon. 411 usually has about 10 dogs-in-training placed around the state at any given time, she said. Despite the volunteers' enormous sacrifices, and the necessity of exposing the dogs to as many public experiences as possible, many people are not willing to accommodate them.

Athons recalled that when she was training a dog, she had to travel to Fairbanks for a conference at a hotel.

"I called ahead and they said, yes, they would allow the dog," but, there would be a \$70 clean-up fee. They said they had to clean

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Tax-Free

NOW OPEN

ARIEL'S

HAIR DESIGN  
SCHOOL

signed on to, either as an group.  
Medicaid are primarily paid  
is limited, particularly in  
top-of-the-line policies that  
including dental, eye glasses,  
and preventive care (yearly  
pap smears and prostate

of medical industries there  
solved arguments whether  
most effective. (Insurance  
is for placing a dollar value  
or other human factors )  
opinion (or hunch) of the  
that insurance companies,  
were going to start applying  
Codes" of Medicare and  
their policy holders. I asked  
they holders, specifically.  
I suggested that preven-  
early casualty Cosmetic  
is might no longer be part of  
had the money to afford the  
many HMOs often refuse  
ing prostate cancers for men  
ply lower the refusal age  
ence and impotence is men  
removed may no longer be  
er procedures most people  
and patient care.

ow years I detect a great deal  
among doctors and other  
self-paid and well-respected  
not accustomed to being  
staff by insurance company

have the power to overrule  
need medical practitioners,  
backlash. And it will come  
ce industry leaders do not

their professional organiza-  
of the fight to bring decent  
ana, and I believe they will  
rams regulating the health

will be driven to this not  
unguarded liberalism but  
e fed up with compromise

As lawmakers convened in Juneau for the Second Session of the 20th Alaska Legislature, many senior-related bills awaited them. Here is the status of those bills, as of the opening of the session:

### House

**HB 44 (Brice, D-Fairbanks)**  
**Pioneers' homes admissions.**

Prohibits the state from deny-  
ing access to a Pioneers' home  
based on an applicant's inability  
to pay the full rates. Currently in  
Labor and Commerce committee.

**HB 67 (Ryan, R-Anchorage)**  
**Permanent Fund dividend eli-  
gibility for Longevity Bonus  
sabbatical.**

Creates a new exception to  
the Permanent Fund Dividend  
program's maximum absence  
rule to allow people who leave  
the state, but who have applied  
for a Longevity Bonus "unpaid  
sabbatical," to remain eligible  
for that year's dividend. Cur-  
rently in Finance committee.

**HB 77 (Gov. Knowles)** In-  
come limits for Longevity Bon-  
us eligibility.

Disqualifies persons with an  
annual income of \$60,000 or  
higher, or households with an  
income of \$80,000 or more, from  
receiving Longevity bonus pay-  
ments. Currently in State Af-  
fairs committee.

**HB 170 (Brice, D-Fairbanks)**  
**Access for service dogs-in-  
training.**

Guarantees access to public  
places for dogs that are being  
trained for seeing-eye, or other  
types of service work for the  
disabled. Currently in Senate  
Health, Education and Social  
Services committee.

### Senate, cont.

**SB 57 (Duncan, D-Juneau)**  
**Longevity Bonus payments and  
medically-related absence.**

Allows recipients to continue  
receiving Longevity Bonus pay-  
ments while out of the state if their  
absence is due to medical treat-  
ment. Also allows people to be  
absent longer than 180 days and  
not be disqualified from the pro-  
gram if the absence is due to medi-  
cal treatment. Currently in State  
Affairs committee.

**SB 165 (Duncan, D-Juneau;  
Ellis, D-Anchorage)** Alaska  
Health Insurance Corporation.

Establishes the corporation,  
whose purpose is to define and  
provide uniform health insurance  
coverage for Alaskan residents.  
The corporation will oversee li-  
censed health care providers, mak-  
ing sure they comply with state  
statutes and regulations concern-  
ing insurance rates, claims and  
coverage. Currently in Health,  
Education and Social Services  
committee.

**SB 166 (Duncan, D-Juneau;  
Ellis, D-Anchorage)** Managed  
care consumer protection.

Establishes guidelines that must  
be followed by managed care orga-  
nizations. Requires customers be  
given an adequate pool of doctors,  
clinics, specialists and services from  
which to choose. Health care cover-  
age must be extended to clients who  
are no longer enrolled in the man-  
aged care organization due to job  
loss, termination of contract, or other  
cause. Guidelines will be enforced  
by the Division of Public Utili-

from page 7

ty more because there was a dog  
in there."

However, such a fee is not  
charged to people with seeing-  
eye dogs or other fully-trained  
service dogs, Athons said.

All and other dog-in-training pro-  
grams have tried to educate people  
so they'll understand that dogs-in-  
training are not taken into different  
types of areas until they are ready to  
handle them, Athons said.

For instance, a dog must be  
capable of remaining in a down-  
stay position beneath a table  
through the duration of a meal  
before it is taken into a restau-  
rant. It also must be able to refuse  
food if offered -- service dogs  
are not fed scraps and are not  
patted while they are working.

Nevertheless, some areas have  
proved to be so stubborn that dog-  
in-training organizations and dis-  
abled advocacy groups took the  
issue to the government.

Last year, state representative  
Tom Brice introduced House Bill  
170, which basically extends the  
rights granted to service dogs  
under the Americans with Dis-  
abilities Act (ADA) to dogs that  
are in training.

Brice said he wrote the bill af-  
ter receiving complaints from  
numerous organizations because  
dogs-in-training are not getting  
into public places such as courts,  
the state ferry system, and the  
Alaska State Fair.

Brice noted that such places  
allow trained service animals be-  
cause there is a "high expectation  
that the dogs are not going to  
cause any problems, and are go-  
ing to react well to situations in

these areas. But they disallow the  
training of those dogs in those  
areas. So it's a catch-22: How can  
you expect a service animal to act  
appropriately in these situations  
when they haven't had any train-  
ing?"

"This is an extension of ADA,  
which says that trained animals  
have to have access in these ar-  
eas. What we're doing is saying  
that the training of these animals  
must be allowed, as well."

The bill does not require that  
staff and customers at restaurants  
or other public places tolerate  
unruly dogs, however. Even un-  
der the ADA, if a service animal  
is a nuisance, it must be removed.

"We're trying to ensure that  
none of that actually happens by  
making sure these animals have  
the training so they could be ex-  
pected to behave appropriately in  
these areas," Brice said.

Last session, the House of Rep-  
resentatives passed the bill by a  
37 to one vote. Brice said he ex-  
pects the senate to support it this  
session, as well.

Schmidbauer is watching the  
bill, and remains an avid supporter  
of dog-in-training rights.

As for Yukon, he turned 18  
months old in August, and  
Schmidbauer tearfully returned  
him to Palm Springs. However,  
tests turned up a slight hip dis-  
placement problem, and the  
school called Schmidbauer and  
asked if she would like to have  
Yukon back, permanently.

He was soon on a plane back to  
Alaska.

"I was so attached to him that I  
just couldn't give him up. He is  
just a wonderful dog, I'll tell you."

Remember:  
**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**  
for the  
Mr. and Mrs. Senior Citizen

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 1997  
*Hand delivered*  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

To: Tom Brice  
Re: House Bill #170

Roger L. Hansen  
1887 Southern Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska

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.

SUPPORT

# FAX

Date: 1/26/98

NUMBER OF PAGES  
INCLUDING COVER SHEET 2



Alaska Cooperative Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS  
Kenai Peninsula District  
34824 Kalkomsky Beach Road, Suite A  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8728  
(907) 262-5824 • FAX: (907) 262-3939

TO: Joe Hayes

FROM: Linda Othman

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: **262-5824**

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: **262-3939**

CC: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:  Urgent  For your Review  Reply ASAP  Please Comment

Joe,

Thank you for your work on House Bill 170. This is very important to our 4-H Guide Dog Puppy Program. If there is anything we can do to help the effort please let us know. I was teaching in Kodiak last Friday so was unable to participate in the teleconference. However, I did submit written testimony. Here is my I.D. Card. As I said, the Raisers ID cards are more specific and theirs expires approximately 18 months from receiving their puppy.

Linda

(side 1)

Guide Dogs of the Desert  
Palm Springs, California  
Volunteer Training Identification Card

This is to certify that LINDA ATHONS is an official Volunteer Area ~~Coordinator~~ puppy trainer. Socialization and familiarization training are an important part of the Guide Dog training process.

Dogs Name PUPPYS IN TRAINING Sex M & F

Breed LABS, GOLDEN RETRIEVERS and SHEPHERDS

Expires 12/2000 Exec. Dir. James O. Hyatt

(side 2)



Puppy Raiser

PO Box 1592  
Palm Springs  
California 92263  
760-329-6257  
Fax 760-329-2127

RECEIVED  
MAR 12 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."

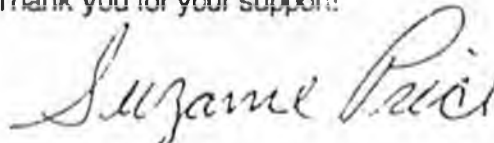
Security personnel: "If you're not blind you can't bring that dog in here."

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

To: Tom Brice

State of Alaska  
Fairbanks Legislative Office  
Fax # 465-2973 (Attention Tracy Ashe)

Re: House Bill 170

The undersigned support this bill relating to interference with the rights of physically and mentally challenged persons; and relating to service animals during their training.

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