

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by
5 changing Section 3-12-16 as follows:

6 (730 ILCS 5/3-12-16)

7 Sec. 3-12-16. Helping Paws Service Dog Program.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "Person with a disability" means a person who suffers from
10 a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one
11 or more major life activities.

12 "Program" means the Helping Paws Service Dog Program
13 created by this Section.

14 "Service dog" means a dog trained in obedience and task
15 skills to meet the needs of a person with a disability.

16 "Animal care professional" means a person certified to work
17 in animal care related services, such as grooming, kenneling,
18 and any other related fields.

19 "Service dog professional" means a person certified to
20 train service dogs by an agency, organization, or school
21 approved by the Department.

22 "Veteran" means an Illinois resident who is a veteran as
23 defined in subsection (h) of Section 1491 of Title 10 of the

1 United States Code.

2 (b) The Department may establish the Helping Paws Service
3 Dog Program to train committed persons to be service dog
4 trainers and animal care professionals. The Department shall
5 select committed persons in various correctional institutions
6 and facilities to participate in the Program.

7 (c) Priority for participation in the Program must be given
8 to committed persons who either have a high school diploma or
9 have passed high school equivalency testing.

10 (d) The Department may contract with service dog
11 professionals to train committed persons to be certified
12 service dog trainers. Service dog professionals shall train
13 committed persons in dog obedience training, service dog
14 training, and animal health care. Upon successful completion of
15 the training, a committed person shall receive certification by
16 an agency, organization, or school approved by the Department.

17 (e) The Department may designate a non-profit organization
18 to select animals from humane societies and shelters for the
19 purpose of being trained as service dogs and for participation
20 in any program designed to train animal care professionals.

21 (f) After a dog is trained by the committed person as a
22 service dog, a review committee consisting of an equal number
23 of persons from the Department and the non-profit organization
24 shall select a person with a disability or a veteran with
25 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression to receive
26 the service dog free of charge.

1 (g) Employees of the Department shall periodically visit
2 persons with disabilities who have received service dogs from
3 the Department under this Section to determine whether the
4 needs of the persons with disabilities or veterans with
5 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression have been
6 met by the service dogs trained by committed persons.

7 (h) Employees of the Department shall periodically visit
8 committed persons who have been certified as service dog
9 trainers or animal care professionals and who have been paroled
10 or placed on mandatory supervised release to determine whether
11 the committed persons are using their skills as certified
12 service dog trainers or animal care professionals.

13 (Source: P.A. 98-718, eff. 1-1-15; 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)