



SR0542

LRB104 16711 ECR 30116 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Service animals play a vital role in ensuring
3 that individuals with disabilities and chronic health
4 conditions can fully participate in everyday life and live
5 with autonomy, dignity, and independence; and

6 WHEREAS, Service animals provide essential support to
7 people with a wide range of disabilities and health
8 conditions, including but not limited to mobility impairments,
9 sensory disabilities, seizure disorders, diabetes, mental
10 health conditions, and other chronic medical conditions; and

11 WHEREAS, Students with disabilities across the State of
12 Illinois rely on service animals to safely and fully
13 participate in educational activities, school programs,
14 transportation, and extracurricular opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, Service animals are individually trained to
16 perform specific tasks that directly support a student's
17 access to education, including alerting to medical conditions,
18 guiding students with visual impairments, assisting with
19 stability and mobility, interrupting or preventing harmful
20 episodes, retrieving items, providing safety monitoring, and
21 enabling greater independence; and

1 WHEREAS, The daily presence of service animals can
2 significantly reduce barriers faced by students with
3 disabilities, increase their comfort and confidence in school
4 environments, promote academic engagement, and support social,
5 emotional, and developmental well-being; and

6 WHEREAS, Federal and state disability rights laws,
7 including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of
8 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with
9 Disabilities Education Act, and the Illinois Human Rights Act,
10 protect the rights of students who use service animals and
11 require schools to ensure equal access to all programs and
12 services; and

13 WHEREAS, Schools, including public, private, and charter
14 educational institutions, have an obligation to provide equal
15 access to students with disabilities who use service animals
16 and to avoid discriminatory practices or barriers that impede
17 educational participation; and

18 WHEREAS, Increased public awareness and consistent
19 implementation of service-animal policies help create
20 inclusive learning environments in which students with
21 disabilities can thrive academically, socially, and
22 emotionally; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize and
3 affirm the profound importance of service animals in
4 supporting the safety, health, independence, and academic
5 success of students with disabilities across Illinois; and be
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, That we encourage all Illinois school districts
8 to continue fostering respect for individuals who use service
9 animals and to promote awareness of the rights and
10 responsibilities established under federal and state law; and
11 be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge state agencies, including the
13 Illinois State Board of Education, to review existing
14 policies, administrative rules, oversight practices, and
15 enforcement mechanisms to ensure that all Illinois schools
16 fully comply with disability rights laws governing
17 service-animal access, including appropriate staff training,
18 consistent implementation, and timely resolution of barriers
19 or complaints.