

House Bill 695

By: Representatives Holt of the 112<sup>th</sup> and Mills of the 25<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wild  
2 animals, so as to enact the "Disabled Assistants Act"; to revise provisions relating to wild  
3 animal permits and licenses; to authorize the issuance of permits for animals to assist persons  
4 with disabilities under certain conditions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an  
5 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Disabled Assistants Act."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 Chapter 5 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to wild animals, is  
11 amended in Code Section 27-5-4, relating to wild animal licenses and permits, by striking  
12 subsection (b) and inserting in its place a new subsection to read as follows:

13 "(b)(1) ~~Wild~~ Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, wild animal licenses  
14 will be issued only to persons engaged in the wholesale or retail wild animal business or  
15 persons exhibiting wild animals to the public. Wild animal permits will be issued at no  
16 cost and only to persons for scientific or educational purposes or to a pond owner for  
17 grass carp or grass carp hybrids where the department has determined that the possession  
18 of such carp by the pond owner will not constitute a threat to wildlife; provided, however,  
19 that no such permit shall be required for persons buying triploid grass carp from properly  
20 licensed wild animal dealers authorized to sell grass carp where the bill of sale is retained  
21 by the buyer as proof of such sale and where the triploid grass carp are to be stocked only  
22 into a private pond; provided, further, that no such license or permit shall be required  
23 solely for the transportation of wild animals through this state where the animals remain  
24 in this state no more than 24 hours and are not sold or transferred while in this state.

1 (2) The department shall issue a wild animal permit to any person who establishes to the  
2 satisfaction of the department that:

3 (A) Such person has a disability which interferes with the person's ability to perform  
4 one or more routine daily living activities;

5 (B) The animal for which the permit is to be issued has been or will be trained to assist  
6 the person in performing his or her daily living activities;

7 (C) The animal will be humanely treated and will not present a health or safety threat;  
8 and

9 (D) The organization furnishing the animal to the applicant:

10 (i) Is reputable, lawful, and does not have any history of violating this chapter; and

11 (ii) Provides to the department documentation and data sufficient to establish that the  
12 organization has a proven record, over at least a ten-year period, of furnishing animals  
13 which provide meaningful assistance to persons with disabilities."

14 **SECTION 3.**

15 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
16 without such approval.

17 **SECTION 4.**

18 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.