

House Resolution 1296

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Kirby of the 114th, and Frye of the 118th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Service Animals for Physically or Mentally
2 Impaired Persons; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, service animals can assist physically or mentally impaired persons with
4 performing tasks and accomplishing major life activities, including ambulating, seeing,
5 hearing, learning, working, and interacting with others; and

6 WHEREAS, physically or mentally impaired persons are authorized by federal law to have
7 service animals accompany them in places where the general public is invited; and

8 WHEREAS, some persons take their pets with them to public accommodations and facilities
9 claiming such pets are service animals when, in actuality, such pets are "fake service
10 animals"; and

11 WHEREAS, there is no state or federal certification process to ensure that an animal
12 accompanying a person is actually a service animal; and

13 WHEREAS, owners and operators of restaurants, hotels, and other places of public
14 accommodation are put in the difficult position of trying to make such determination on the
15 spot; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to examine these issues, including whether there is a need
17 for a uniform certification process or the issuance of information cards, whether there is a
18 need to criminalize the use of a "fake service animal," or whether the rights of trainers of
19 service animals should be clarified, and to determine if legislative action is needed on any
20 of these issues.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

- 22 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
23 on Service Animals for Physically or Mentally Impaired Persons.
- 24 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of six members of the
25 House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson
27 of the committee.
- 28 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
29 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
30 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 31 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
32 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
33 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
34 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
- 35 (5) **Allowances and funding.** Members of the committee who are members of the
36 General Assembly shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of
37 the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution
38 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than five days unless
39 additional days are authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this
40 resolution shall come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives.
- 41 (6) **Report.**
- 42 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
43 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
44 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
45 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.
- 46 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
47 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
48 of this paragraph.
- 49 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
50 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
51 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
52 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.
- 53 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
54 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
55 thereof.
- 56 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2018.