

Senate Bill 468

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions regarding dogs, so as to require animal shelters to accept
3 registration of veterans' service dogs; to provide definitions; to provide for related matters;
4 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 general provisions regarding dogs, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
9 follows:

10 "4-8-8.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

12 (1) 'Animal shelter' means any facility operated by or under contract for the state or any
13 county, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the state for the purpose
14 of impounding or harboring seized, stray, homeless, abandoned, or unwanted dogs; any
15 veterinary hospital or clinic operated by a veterinarian or veterinarians which operates for
16 such purpose in addition to its customary purposes; and any facility operated, owned, or
17 maintained by a duly incorporated humane society, animal welfare society, or other
18 nonprofit organization for the purpose of providing for and promoting the welfare,
19 protection, and humane treatment of dogs.

20 (2) 'Disabled veteran' shall have the same meaning as that term is defined in paragraph
21 (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-5-48.

22 (3) 'Service dog' means guide or service dogs prescribed for a disabled veteran.

23 (b)(1) Any disabled veteran may, pursuant to this subsection, register his or her service
24 dog with an animal shelter located in the county of such disabled veteran's residence or,
25 in the absence of any such animal shelter, with the animal shelter located nearest to such
26 residence, and animal shelters in this state shall accept such registrations.

- 27 (2) A registration submitted to an animal shelter pursuant to paragraph (1) of this
28 subsection may include the following information and documentation:
- 29 (A) The disabled veteran's name, address, and other contact information;
30 (B) The service dog's name and breed;
31 (C) A brief description of the service dog's appearance or a photograph or other image
32 of the service dog; and
33 (D) Any other information relevant to the location of the service dog in the event that
34 such dog is separated from the disabled veteran."

35 **SECTION 2.**

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