LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 553

Introduced by Clements, 2.
Read first time January 22, 2019
Committee: Judiciary

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to civil rights; to require reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability to have an assistance animal in a dwelling as prescribed; to define terms; and to provide a written verification process.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) Assistance animal means an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability or that provides emotional support to such person that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability;

(b) Disability means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of a person;

(c) Dwelling means any building, structure, or portion thereof which is occupied as or designed or intended for occupancy as a residence for one or more families; and

(d) Health service provider means a physician, psychologist, or mental health practitioner licensed to practice in Nebraska under the Uniform Credentialing Act. It does not include a physician, psychologist, or mental health practitioner whose sole service to a resident of this state is to provide written verification, including written verification from an online or Internet source or web site, in exchange for a fee and provides no other service to such resident.

(2) Any person who offers to rent or otherwise make available a dwelling to a resident of this state who is a person with a disability whose disability is not readily apparent and who seeks a reasonable accommodation for an assistance animal in such dwelling may require that the person with a disability provide written verification from a health service provider that:

(a) He or she is a person with a disability;

(b) There is a disability-related need for the assistance animal; and

(c) The assistance animal assists the person with a disability in managing his or her disability.