

SB0037/453222/1

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 37
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in lines 4 and 6, in each instance, after “Program” insert “, the Maryland Disability Service Animal Program,”; after line 12, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article - Health - General
Section 13-4102(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Human Services
Section 7-1501 and 7-1505
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
(As enacted by Chapters 6 and 13 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the
Special Session of 2025)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article - Human Services
Section 7-1502
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
(As enacted by Chapters 6 and 13 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the
Special Session of 2025)”;

and after line 17, insert:

“BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article - State Government
Section 9-957(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 1, after "(b)" insert "**“DIRECT THREAT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.**

(C)”;

strike in their entirety lines 4 and 5; and after line 22, insert:

“13-4102.

(a) There is a Maryland Children’s Service Animal Program in the Department.”.

On page 3, after line 4, insert:

“Article – Human Services

7-1501.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Department” means the Department of Disabilities.

(C) “DIRECT THREAT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

[(c)] (D) “Eligible individual” means a resident of the State with a disability, as defined in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12102.

[(d)] (E) “Fund” means the Maryland Disability Service Animal Program Fund.

SB0037/453222/01 **Finance Committee**
Amendments to SB 37
Page 3 of 4

[(e)] (F) “Nonprofit training entity” means a corporation, a foundation, or any other legal entity that:

- (1) is tax-exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (2) engages in the training of service animals for use by eligible individuals; and
- (3) has been selected by the Department to provide services under this subtitle.

[(f)] (G) “Program” means the Maryland Disability Service Animal Program established under this subtitle.

[(g)] (H) “Program participant” means an eligible individual who participates in the Program.

[(h)] (I) (1) “Service animal” means an animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

- (2) “Service animal” does not include an animal that:
 - (i) as a result of the animal’s presence, is meant to deter crime;

or

 - (ii) provides only emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship to an individual.

[(i)] (J) “Successful Program participant” means a Program participant who successfully completes the training protocol specified by a nonprofit training entity.

7-1502.

There is a Maryland Disability Service Animal Program in the Department.

7-1505.

(Over)

(a) To be eligible for selection as a nonprofit training entity under [§ 7-1204] § 7-1504 of this subtitle, a nonprofit training entity shall:

(1) serve the needs of eligible individuals in the State; and

(2) generate its own revenue and reinvest the proceeds of that revenue in the growth and development of its programs.

(b) A nonprofit training entity may disqualify a Program participant from participation in the Program if the nonprofit training entity determines that the Program participant's involvement in the Program:

(1) presents a danger to the Program participant's mental or physical well-being;

(2) presents a direct threat to others[, as defined by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act];

(3) presents a direct threat to the [service animal's] mental or physical well-being OF THE SERVICE ANIMAL; or

(4) does not meet the training requirements of the nonprofit.

(c) A Program participant may discontinue involvement in the Program for any reason."

On page 4, after line 18, insert:

"(b) There is a Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program in the Department."