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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1699 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, HOHENSTEIN, ULLMAN, KENYATTA, DeLUCA,  
KIRKLAND, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, CALTAGIRONE, WEBSTER AND  
SCHWEYER, JULY 8, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
JULY 8, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in domestic animals, providing for therapy dogs.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Chapter 23 of Title 3 of the Pennsylvania  
6 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

7 SUBCHAPTER F.1

8 THERAPY DOGS

9 Sec.

10 2370. Public transportation.

11 § 2370. Public transportation.

12 (a) General rule.--A public transportation authority may  
13 not:

14 (1) Deny, limit, discourage or attempt to impose burdens  
15 or penalties on an individual with a disability who is  
16 accompanied by a therapy dog that is properly harnessed for  
17 the purposes of aiding and guiding the individual and riding

1 on a vehicle operated for public transportation.

2 (2) Deny or limit a therapy dog that is properly  
3 harnessed and accompanying an individual with a disability,  
4 an owner or handler of a therapy dog or an individual  
5 licensed to train therapy dogs from aiding and guiding an  
6 individual with a disability or from riding on a vehicle  
7 operated for public transportation.

8 (3) Charge a fee for the transportation of a therapy  
9 dog.

10 (b) Rules and regulations.--The department shall promulgate  
11 rules and regulations necessary to implement this subchapter.

12 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
13 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
14 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Public transportation authority." The term shall have the  
16 same meaning as "authority" as defined in 74 Pa.C.S. § 1701  
17 (relating to definitions).

18 "Recognized therapy dog training organization." An  
19 organization that certifies or registers therapy dogs and  
20 therapy dog handlers.

21 "Therapy dog." A dog that is trained to work or perform  
22 specific tasks for the benefit of individuals, including those  
23 with special needs, autism, drug addiction, distress due to  
24 emotional and physical abuse and clinical depression or bipolar  
25 disorder by a recognized therapy dog training organization and  
26 is used for that purpose.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.