

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION -  
2008**

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**

**LB806**

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**Hearing Date:** January 25, 2008

**Committee On:** Health and Human Services

**Introducer(s):** (Wallman)

**Title:** Change provisions relating to dog guides, hearing aid dogs, and service dogs

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Placed on General File with Amendments

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**Vote Results:**

7 Yes

Senator(s): Johnson, Erdman, Hansen, Howard, Gay  
Pankonin, Stuthman

0 No

0 Absent

0 Present, not voting

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**Proponents:**

Roxann Hamilton

**Representing:**

Self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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## Summary of purpose and/or change:

LB 806 amends section 49-801 to define “service animal” as found in 28 C.F.R. 36.104, as the regulation existed on January 1, 2008. The referenced regulation defines “service animal” as “any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.”

The bill deletes current references to “dog guides,” “hearing aid dogs,” and “service dogs,” and replaces them with the term “service animals.” The bill broadens the scope of current law to include all categories of persons with disabilities who utilize service animals.

The bill amends section 54-603 to exempt service animals from local license fees whether or not the animal has graduated from a recognized training school.

## Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment (AM 1754) deletes provisions that permit the charging of “a reasonable dog deposit, not to exceed one-fourth of one month’s periodic rent.” The amendment would prohibit the demanding or receiving of a deposit from a person with a disability who has or obtains a service animal. Current law still requires a person with a disability to pay for damages caused by a service animal.

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Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson