

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To amend AN ACT To enable the blind and the otherwise physically disabled to participate fully in the social and economic life of the District of Columbia to enable persons with physical and mental disabilities accompanied by a service animal to have equal access to public accommodations and conveyances, to enable persons with physical and mental disabilities accompanied by a service animal to have equal access to housing, and to definitions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

That this act may be cited as the “Service Animals Access Amendment Act of 2011”.

Sec. 2. AN ACT To enable the blind and the otherwise physically disabled to participate fully in the social and economic life of the District of Columbia, approved October 21, 1972 (86 Stat. 970; D.C. Official Code § 7-1001 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 7-1002) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Persons with physical or mental disabilities shall have the right to be accompanied by a service animal, in any of the places, accommodations, or conveyances listed in subsection (a) of this section, without being denied access because of the service animal or required to pay an extra charge for the service animal; but persons with

1 physical or mental disabilities so accompanied shall be liable for any damage done to the
2 premises or facilities by the service animal.”.

3 (2) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the phrase “who is blind or
4 deaf” and inserting the phrase “with physical or mental disabilities” in its place.

5 (b) Section 5 (D.C. Official Code § 7-1006) is amended as follows:

6 (1) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

7 “(b) Persons with physical or mental disabilities who have a service
8 animal shall be entitled to full and equal access to all housing accommodations referred
9 to in this section, without being denied access because of the service animal or required
10 to pay an extra charge for the service animal; but such persons with physical or mental
11 disabilities shall be liable for any damage done to the premises by such service animal.”.

12 (c) Section 8 (D.C. Official Code § 7-1009) is amended as follows:

13 (1) Subsection (4) is amended to read as follows:

14 “(4) The term “person with a physical disability” refers to an individual
15 who has a medically determinable physical impairment which interferes with his ability
16 to move about, to assist himself, or to engage in an occupation.”.

17 (2) Subsection (5) is amended to read as follows:

18 “(5) The term “service animal” means an animal, including a guide dog,
19 that is specially trained to assist a persons with physical or mental disabilities and one
20 which persons with physical or mental disabilities rely on for disability-related
21 assistance.”.

22 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

23 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the
24 fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home

1 Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-
2 206.02(c)(3)).

3 Sec. 4. Effective date.

4 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto
5 by the Mayor, action by Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional
6 review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
7 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and
8 publication in the District of Columbia Register.