

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO.

Introduced by

Senator Nelson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 25-13 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to killing or injuring a service animal; to amend and reenact sections
3 25-13-01.1, 25-13-02, 25-13-02.1, 25-13-03, 25-13-04, and 25-13-05 of the North Dakota
4 Century Code, relating to service animals; and to provide a penalty.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-13-01.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **25-13-01.1. Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

- 9 1. ~~"Assistance dog" includes a dog that has been specially trained to assist an~~
10 ~~individual with a disability. The term includes guide dogs that guide individuals~~
11 ~~who are legally blind, hearing dogs that alert individuals who are hard of hearing to~~
12 ~~specific sounds, and service dogs for individuals with disabilities other than~~
13 ~~blindness or deafness. The term does not include a dog that is not trained to~~
14 ~~mitigate an individual's disability, but the presence of which is to provide for the~~
15 ~~comfort, protection, or personal defense of an individual.~~
16 2. ~~"Service dogs" includes dogs~~ "Service animal" means any guide dog, signal dog,
17 or other animal trained to do work or perform a variety of physical tasks, including
18 pulling for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The term includes an animal
19 trained to provide protection services to an individual with a disability, pull a
20 wheelchair, lending lend balance support, retrieving retrieve dropped objects, and
21 providing or provide assistance in a medical crisis.

22 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-13-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **25-13-02. Individual with a disability - ~~Assistance-dog~~ Service animal - Admission**
2 **to public places.** An individual with a disability is entitled to be accompanied by ~~an assistance~~
3 ~~dog~~ a service animal in places of public accommodations, common carriers, facilities of a health
4 care provider, and all places to which the public is generally invited, without being required to
5 pay an extra charge for the ~~assistance-dog~~ animal; provided, that the individual is liable for any
6 damage done to the premises or facility by the ~~assistance-dog~~ animal.

7 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-13-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **25-13-02.1. Trainer and ~~assistance-dog~~ a service animal in training - Admission**
10 **to public places.**

- 11 1. A trainer with ~~an assistance-dog~~ a service animal in training may enter any place of
12 public accommodation, common carrier, facility of a health care provider, and any
13 place to which the public is generally invited, without being required to pay an extra
14 charge for the ~~assistance-dog~~ service animal in training, provided:
 - 15 a. The trainer notifies an onsite manager that ~~an assistance-dog~~ a service
16 animal in training is being brought onto the premises;
 - 17 b. The trainer wears a photo identification card issued by a nationally recognized
18 ~~dog~~ service animal training program; and
 - 19 c. The trainer is liable for any damage done to the premises or facility by the
20 ~~assistance-dog~~ service animal in training.
- 21 2. Upon receiving notice as provided in subsection 1, the onsite manager may not
22 deny admission to the trainer and the ~~assistance-dog~~ service animal in training
23 without good cause.

24 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-13-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
25 amended and reenacted as follows:

26 **25-13-03. Driver of motor vehicle - Precaution - Individual with ~~assistance-dog~~**
27 **service animal.** If the driver of a motor vehicle approaches an individual who is blind or
28 visually impaired and who is carrying a cane predominately white or metallic in color, with or
29 without a red tip, or who is accompanied by ~~an assistance-dog~~ a service animal, the driver shall
30 take all reasonable precautions to avoid injury to the individual and the ~~assistance-dog~~ service
31 animal. Any driver who fails to take reasonable precautions is liable to the individual for any

1 injury caused. An individual who is blind or visually impaired and not carrying a cane or an
2 individual with a disability who is not accompanied by ~~an assistance dog~~ a service animal has
3 all of the rights and privileges conferred by law upon other individuals. The failure of an
4 individual who is blind or visually impaired to carry a cane or the failure of an individual with a
5 disability to be accompanied by ~~an assistance dog~~ a service animal is not by itself evidence of
6 fault.

7 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-13-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
8 amended and reenacted as follows:

9 **25-13-04. Penalty for interfering or denying use of facilities.** Any person who
10 denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public places or facilities
11 enumerated in section 25-13-02 or otherwise interferes with the rights of an individual who is
12 blind or visually impaired, or with the rights of an individual who is accompanied by ~~an~~
13 ~~assistance dog~~ a service animal, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. This section does not
14 apply to a denial of admission under section 25-13-02.1.

15 **SECTION 6.** A new section to chapter 25-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 created and enacted as follows:

17 **Killing or injury of service animal - Penalty.**

- 18 1. a. A person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if that person willfully:
19 (1) Harasses, taunts, provokes, or torments a service animal; or
20 (2) Interferes with a service animal while the animal is working.
21 b. A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if that person willfully and
22 unjustifiably harms a service animal.
23 c. A person is guilty of a class C felony if that person willfully and unjustifiably:
24 (1) Causes debilitating bodily injury to a service animal; or
25 (2) Causes the death of a service animal.
26 2. This section does not apply to a veterinarian who terminates the life of a service
27 animal to relieve the animal of undue suffering and pain.

28 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-13-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
29 amended and reenacted as follows:

30 **25-13-05. State employment of individuals who are blind and or otherwise**
31 **disabled.** It is the policy of this state that ~~the~~ individuals who are blind, the visually

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- 1 ~~handicapped, and the~~ impaired, or otherwise physically disabled shall be employed in the state
- 2 service, the service of the political subdivisions of the state, the public schools, and all other
- 3 employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms and conditions as
- 4 ~~the able-bodied~~ individuals who are not disabled, unless the particular disability prevents the
- 5 performance of the work involved.