

HB 2031 -- SERVICE DOGS

SPONSOR: Sommer

This bill specifies that anyone who knowingly represents a dog as a service dog for the purpose of receiving the accommodations afforded service dogs under the Americans with Disabilities Act is guilty of a class C misdemeanor and liable for any actual damages resulting from the impersonation. Any subsequent violation is a class B misdemeanor.

The Commission on Human Rights must use its existing complaint hot line to receive reports of individuals impersonating a person with a disability or representing a dog as a service dog. The commission will refer an alleged violation to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation.

The Department of Health and Senior Services must prepare and make available to businesses a decal, suitable for posting in a front window or door, stating that service dogs are welcome and that misrepresentation of a service dog is a violation of Missouri law. The department must also create a brochure to help business owners with permissible questions and answers and guidelines defining acceptable behavior.