

CHAPTER 29

AN ACT concerning the use of service animals by certain students on school buses and amending P.L.2011, c.156.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 2 of P.L.2011, c.156 (C.18A:46-13.3) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:46-13.3 Permitted access for service animals.

2. a. A student with a disability, including autism, shall be permitted access for a service animal in school buildings, including the classroom, on school buses, and on school grounds.

b. A school official may inquire as to whether the service animal is required due to a disability and what task or work the service animal has been trained to perform, unless the student's disability and the work or task that the service animal will perform are readily apparent. A school official may require: (1) certification from a veterinarian that the service animal is properly vaccinated and does not have a contagious disease that may harm students or staff; and (2) documentation that any license required by the municipality in which the student resides has been obtained for the service animal.

c. The service animal shall be under a handler's control at all times by use of a leash, tether, voice control, signal, or other suitable means. The school shall not be responsible or liable for the care or supervision of the service animal. The school shall provide reasonable accommodations to allow the handler to provide for the care and feeding of the service animal while on school grounds or at a school function.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved March 23, 2015.