

CHAPTER 163

AN ACT concerning guide dogs and service dogs and amending P.L.1941, c.151.

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

1. Section 2 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.2) is amended to read as follows:

C.4:19-15.2 Dog licensing, tag; exemptions.

2. Any person who shall own, keep or harbor a dog of licensing age shall annually or every third year, in accordance with a 3-year dog license or renewal thereof issued under subsection b. of section 12 of this act (C. 4:19-15.12b), apply for and procure from the clerk of the municipality or other official designated by the governing body thereof to license dogs in the municipality in which he resides, a license and official metal registration tag for each such dog so owned, kept or harbored, and shall place upon each such dog a collar or harness with the registration tag securely fastened thereto. A person or group temporarily caring for a dog placed in a foster home as part of a formalized training to be a guide dog or service dog shall be exempt from applying for and procuring a license and registration tag for the dog while the dog remains in the foster home for such training.

For the purposes of this section, "guide dog" and "service dog" mean a guide dog or service dog as defined in section 5 of P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-5).

2. Section 3 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.3) is amended to read as follows:

C.4:19-15.3 Application, renewal of dog license; fee; exemptions.

3. The person applying for the license and registration tag shall pay the fee fixed or authorized to be fixed in section 12 of this act, and the sum of \$1.00 for a one-year registration tag or \$3.00 for a three-year registration tag for each dog; and for each renewal, the fee for the license and for the registration tag shall be the same as for the original license and tag; and said licenses, registration tags and renewals thereof shall expire no later than June 30 in the year stated on the license; except that this expiration date shall not require a municipality to alter its schedule for administering rabies inoculations to any dog to be licensed and registered; nor shall this expiration date require a municipality to alter its schedule for renewing licenses and registration tags, provided that the registration period precedes June 30. The governing body of a municipality may stagger the expiration of such annual licenses so long as all expirations occur no later than June 30 in the calendar year stated on the license.

Only one license and registration tag shall be required in any licensing year for any dog owned in New Jersey, and such license and tag shall be accepted by all municipalities as evidence of compliance with this section.

Dogs used as guide dogs or service dogs shall be licensed and registered as other dogs hereinabove provided for, except that the owner or keeper of a guide dog or service dog shall not be required to pay any fee therefor. A dog temporarily placed in a foster home as part of a formalized training to be a guide dog or service dog shall not be required to be licensed and registered while the dog remains in the foster home for such training.

For the purposes of this section, "guide dog" and "service dog" mean a guide dog or service dog as defined in section 5 of P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-5).

License forms and uniform official metal registration tags designed by the Department of Health shall be furnished by the municipality and shall be numbered serially and shall bear the year of issuance and the name of the municipality.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 2, 2015.