

## Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB 1224

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Reeves, Bryce E.

**3. Committee:** Rehabilitation and Social Services

**4. Title:** Service dogs; establishes voluntary certification program

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation requires the Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services to establish a voluntary certification program for service dogs that have completed training from an accredited training provider. No person may represent a dog as a "certified service dog" unless the dog has been granted the certification by the Commission. Under the bill, any person who represents a dog as a "certified service dog" when it is not is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$250.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	-	-	-
2016	\$181,314	1.0	General
2017	\$86,314	1.0	Indeterminate*
2018	\$86,314	1.0	Indeterminate*
2019	\$86,314	1.0	Indeterminate*
2020	\$86,314	1.0	Indeterminate*
2021	\$86,314	1.0	Indeterminate*

**7b. Revenue Impact:** Indeterminate.\*

\*While the bill would allow DARS to establish a fee system to offset the costs of the certification, it is assumed that the agency, at a minimum, would require general fund to cover the first year costs as fee revenue cannot be assumed until the agency begins to issue certifications. In addition, once the program is implemented there is no way to estimate the number of service dogs owners that will voluntarily opt for certification. Assuming a fee of \$25 was established, it would require 3,200 service dogs to be certified annually to cover the on-going operational costs assumed in this statement. Therefore, it is assumed that some general fund dollars would be required to support on-going operations; however the specific funding mix cannot be determined at this time.

- 8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation requires the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to establish a voluntary certification program for service dogs that have completed training from an accredited training provider. No person would be able to represent a dog as a “certified service dog” unless the dog has been granted the certification by the department. Any person who violates this provision would be guilty of a class 4 misdemeanor.

Based on the bill’s requirements, DARS would have to 1) develop procedures for determining the qualifications for a training provider and establish a fee system, 2) promulgate the necessary regulations, 3) provide and review applications, 4) provide certifications and serialized tags to owners, 5) maintain a database on certifications and 6) provide information referral and education. Based on these added responsibilities, the department would need to hire a position to establish and run this program. Initially this position would develop the training provider qualifications, develop regulations, develop educational information and serve as a subject matter expert on the development of the necessary information systems. Once the certification program is in place, this position’s duties would include reviewing applications, issuing certifications, collecting fees, and answering all programmatic inquiries. Assuming a salary of \$49,137 the total personal services with benefits would be \$71,109. In addition, the associated nonpersonal services costs are estimated at \$10,205. The cost of promulgating regulations should be minimal as the agency already has existing staff for this function. The cost of developing an application, educational materials certifications and tags is estimated to be approximately \$25,000 the first year and \$5,000 each year thereafter. There is an assumed one-time cost of \$75,000 to develop a database and make any necessary information system changes. Once created, the on-going information technology costs should be minimal. The total first year cost of the bill is estimated to be \$181,314, with approximately \$86,314 of on-going operating costs.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:**  
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 1/22/15