

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3—Committee on
Human Resources and Education

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Designating the second Wednesday in April as “Service Animal Recognition Day” to heighten public awareness of the importance of service animals and service animals in training to persons with disabilities and to provide opportunities for educating the public on the subject of service animals.

WHEREAS, Service animals enhance the lives of their human partners by performing a variety of tasks that are important to an individual’s independence, mobility, confidence and comfort; and

WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities have the same rights to free and equal participation in society that persons without disabilities have, including access to public accommodations and public transportation and to nondiscrimination in practices related to housing and employment; and

WHEREAS, The Americans With Disabilities Act and the laws of the State of Nevada protect the rights of persons with disabilities and their service animals as well as those of trainers of service animals and service animals in training; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for increased public awareness of the importance of service animals and service animals in training to persons with disabilities and of the rights of those who use service animals; and

WHEREAS, Education is essential to alert the public to the harm that is caused by the fraudulent misrepresentation of pets as service animals or service animals in training and by the failure of pet owners to control their animals in the presence of a service animal or service animal in training; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Nevada need to know that interference with, harming or killing a service animal or service animal in training may result in criminal penalties and civil liability for the offender or the owner of an offending animal; and

WHEREAS, Local governments, local government organizations and law enforcement agencies should be made aware of the importance of enforcing existing local ordinances related to animal control to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and enable them to use service animals safely; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That April 13, 2005, is hereby designated as “Service Animal Recognition Day” in Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living and the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living are hereby asked to coordinate activities that encourage the residents of the State of Nevada to recognize and celebrate the second Wednesday in April of each subsequent year as Service Animal Recognition Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That chambers of commerce, local governments, local governmental organizations and law enforcement agencies are urged to provide training on the rights of persons with disabilities with service animals to access public accommodations and public transportation and to nondiscrimination in employment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That local governments and other organizations are hereby advised that the Nevada Equal Rights Commission has jurisdiction over the resolution of complaints of unlawful discriminatory practices related to housing, employment and public accommodations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Education to make available to the schools in Nevada, law enforcement agencies, the Nevada Association of Counties for distribution to local governments, the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living and the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living.