

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING MORE STUDY  
INTO EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Daniel Hemmert**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution urges the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to amend federal regulations related to emotional support animals.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ defines "service animal" and "emotional support animal";
- ▶ highlights the detrimental impact that abuse of emotional support animal and service animal laws have on individuals with a disability;
- ▶ supports the change to federal regulations recently proposed by the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding emotional support animals;
- ▶ supports guidelines recently developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that clarify federal regulations related to emotional support animals; and
- ▶ urges the President of the United States, Congress, and Utah's congressional delegation to work with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to further amend federal regulations relating to emotional support animals.

**Special Clauses:**



28 None

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30 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

31 WHEREAS, "service animal" means an animal that is individually trained to do work  
32 or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory,  
33 psychiatric, intellectual, or mental disability;

34 WHEREAS, "emotional support animal" means an animal that provides emotional  
35 support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of an individual's disability;

36 WHEREAS, a service animal is a medical tool and not a pet;

37 WHEREAS, federal law requires an individual to obtain a prescription from a licensed  
38 medical professional to have an emotional support animal, which under federal regulations may  
39 be obtained on the Internet;

40 WHEREAS, the misuse of current emotional support animal and service animal laws  
41 has increased over time and has detrimentally impacted the quality of life of individuals with a  
42 disability that depend on service animals;

43 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation recently proposed changes to the  
44 federal regulations for the Air Carrier Access Act, 49 U.S.C. Sec. 41705, under 14 C.F.R. Part  
45 382, that clarify the distinction between a service animal and an emotional support animal and  
46 provide that aircraft carriers do not need to recognize an emotional support animal as a service  
47 animal; and

48 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently  
49 provided guidance on federal regulations related to service animals and emotional support  
50 animals in the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq., including best practices for  
51 housing providers to follow when determining an accommodation request for a service animal:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
53 Governor concurring therein, support the change proposed by the U.S. Department of  
54 Transportation to the federal regulations for the Air Carrier Access Act, 49 U.S.C. Sec. 41705,  
55 under 14 C.F.R. Part 382, regarding emotional support animals.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
57 concurring therein, support the guidelines developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and  
58 Urban Development that clarify the federal regulations related to emotional support animals in

59 the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor  
61 concurring therein, urge the President of the United States, Congress, and Utah's congressional  
62 delegation to work with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of  
63 Housing and Urban Development to further amend federal regulations relating to emotional  
64 support animals to require that a prescription for an emotional support animal may only be  
65 obtained through an in-person visit with a licensed medical professional.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of  
67 Utah's federal delegation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
68 Development, and the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.