



**Substitute House Bill No. 6999**

**Public Act No. 17-185**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE USE OF THERAPY DOGS TO COMFORT AND SUPPORT TESTIFYING WITNESSES IN CERTAIN CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2017*) The Judicial Branch shall maintain on its Internet web site (1) notice that the court may exercise its discretion to permit a dog to provide comfort and support to a testifying witness, (2) a hyperlink to the Internet web site of an organization that provides information regarding animal-assisted therapy resources, and (3) if applicable, a hyperlink to information regarding such resources on the Internet web site of the Division of Criminal Justice.

Approved July 10, 2017