



House of Representatives

File No. 812

General Assembly

January Session, 2017

(Reprint of File Nos. 72 and 715)

Substitute House Bill No. 6999
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 31, 2017

**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:

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	New section
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The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Judicial Department to maintain information on its website and does not result in a fiscal impact.

House "A" struck the language of the underlying bill and replaced it with language described above.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB-6999 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE USE OF THERAPY DOGS TO COMFORT CHILDREN TESTIFYING IN CERTAIN CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Judicial Branch to maintain on its website:

1. notice that the court may exercise its discretion to permit a dog to comfort and support a testifying witness;
2. a link to the website of an organization that provides information on animal assisted therapy resources; and
3. if applicable, a link to information on the Division of Criminal Justice's website about such resources.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which required the Judicial Branch to post on its website information about (1) the availability of an accommodation to allow a therapy dog to accompany children testifying in certain criminal prosecutions and (2) organizations that provide for the use of such dogs at no cost.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/02/2017)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/25/2017)