



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Bill Analysis

Dan DeSantis

### **H.B. 558**

132nd General Assembly

(As Reported by H. Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security)

**Reps.** McClain, Becker, West, Brenner, Sheehy, Galonski, Carfagna, Romanchuk, Riedel, K. Smith, Dean, Wiggam, Johnson, Kick, Craig, Landis, Miller, Perales, Zeltwanger

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Exempts certain disabled veterans from paying the county auditor's dog registration fee when the dog is an assistance dog.
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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Assistance dogs for veterans**

The bill extends the dog registration fee exemption for an "assistance dog" of a veteran with a service-related disability, including post-traumatic stress disorder. Under continuing dog registration law, an assistance dog may be a "guide dog" trained to assist a blind person, a "hearing dog" trained to assist a deaf or hearing-impaired person, or a "service dog" trained to assist a mobility impaired person.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the bill expands the definition of "mobility impaired person," to include a person who is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, including reserve components thereof, or of the National Guard, who has been discharged or released from active duty in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions, and who has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or any other service-related disability. So, a veteran could be exempt from the registration fee requirement for the veteran's qualifying service dog.

Under continuing law, dog owners generally are required to register a dog with the office of the county auditor. A registration fee is \$2 for each year of registration for a one-year or three-year registration or \$20 for a permanent registration for each dog.

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 955.011(B)(3) through (6).

However, the fee may exceed that amount if a board of county commissioners establishes a greater fee under established procedures.<sup>2</sup> Registration of an assistance dog is exempt from the registration fee, provided that the dog owner can show proof by certificate or other means that the dog is an assistance dog. Assistance dog registration is permanent, and is not subject to annual renewal. Furthermore, the county auditor must issue a certificate and tag stamped "Ohio Assistance Dog-Permanent Registration" upon registration of the dog.<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-15-18
Reported, H. Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security	11-15-18

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 955.01, not in the bill.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 955.011(A).

