

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 550
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/14/15
PROPOSED SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H550-PCS10558-ST-122

Short Title: Raleigh Apodaca Service Dog Retirement Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 6, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE OWNERSHIP OF SERVICE ANIMALS OWNED BY THE STATE
OR A UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE SERVICE
ANIMAL'S HANDLER OR OTHER SPECIFIED PERSONS UPON THE SERVICE
ANIMAL'S RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC SERVICE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 4 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
new section to read:

"§ 20-187.4. Disposition of retired service animals.

(a) Upon determination that any service animal is no longer fit or needed for public
service, the State or unit of local government may transfer ownership of the animal at a price
determined by the State or unit of local government and upon any other terms and conditions as
the State or unit of local government deems appropriate, to any of the following individuals, if that
individual agrees to accept ownership, care, and custody of the service animal:

- (1) The officer or employee who had normal custody and control of the service
animal during the service animal's public service to the State or unit of local
government.
- (2) A surviving spouse, or in the event such officer or employee dies unsurvived by
a spouse, surviving children of the officer or employee killed in the line of duty
who had normal custody and control of the service animal during the service
animal's public service to the State or unit of local government.
- (3) An organization or program dedicated to the assistance or support of service
animals retired from public service.

(b) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Service animal." – Any horse, dog, or other animal owned by the State or a
unit of local government that performs law enforcement, public safety, or
emergency service functions.
- (2) "Unit of local government." – As defined in G.S. 159-7(b)(15)."

SECTION 2. This act is effective October 1, 2016.



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