

HB 16-1426 Disability and Assistance Animals

Our organization too often hears about dog owners attempting to present their ordinary pet as a service animal. They buy the Internet vest, put it on the dog and demand the dog be able to eat beside them in a restaurant, enter buildings otherwise not allowing dogs, defying HOA bans on all dogs except service animals, and otherwise demeaning a law through their actions that allows bonafide service animals into places to help their owners. If these ignorant and irresponsible “fake” assistance dog owners present their animals as being legal under the [definition of the law, HB 16-1426](#), they are subject to penalties and very well should be. Presenting a fake assistance animal, and please emotional support animals are not the same, harms and jeopardizes and makes it more difficult for a physically disabled person to present their “real” assistance animal in places they are entitled to enter with the animal. Enough said.