

DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

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Dianne:

The current definition of “service animal” in s. 106.52 (1) (fm) refers to the task of guiding a person with “impaired vision.” We changed this to guiding a person who is “blind,” to conform to the definition of “service animal” provided by International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP). (Actually, IAADP uses the term “legally blind,” but “legally blind” is not used in the Wisconsin Statutes.) The term “blind” is defined in the Wisconsin Statutes under s. 47.01 (1). “Visually impaired” is defined under s. 47.01 (5). Do you want to make this change from “visually impaired” to “blind?” And do you want to specifically incorporate the s. 47.01 definition of either “blind” or “visually impaired,” depending on which term you use, into the definition of “service animal”?

Similarly, this bill changes alerting “a person with impaired hearing” to alerting “a person who is deaf or hard of hearing,” again for the purpose of conforming to the IAADP definition. None of the relevant terms — deaf, hard of hearing, or hearing impaired — are defined in the Wisconsin Statutes. Do you want to keep this change?

Section 174.055 of the Wisconsin Statutes exempts dogs specially trained to lead blind or deaf persons or to provide support for mobility-impaired persons from the dog license tax. For consistency, do you want to use the definition of “service animal” in this section, i.e., apply the tax exemption to every dog that is a service animal as defined under s. 106.52 (1) (fm)?

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