

State of Wisconsin



2025 Assembly Bill 238

Date of enactment:
Date of publication*:

2025 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT to create 106.52 (1) (ce), 106.52 (1) (fe) and 106.52 (3) (as) of the statutes; **relating to:** prohibiting hotels, inns, motels, and tourist rooming houses from discriminating against dog handlers who are accompanied by search and rescue dogs.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 106.52 (1) (ce) of the statutes is created to read:

106.52 (1) (ce) "Dog handler" means an individual who is trained to work with a search and rescue dog.

SECTION 2. 106.52 (1) (fe) of the statutes is created to read:

106.52 (1) (fe) "Search and rescue dog" means a dog that is trained or is being trained by a state or nationally recognized search and rescue agency to locate lost or missing individuals and victims of disasters in search and rescue activities.

SECTION 3. 106.52 (3) (as) of the statutes is created to read:

106.52 (3) (as) 1. In this paragraph:

a. "Hotel," "inn," and "motel" have the meaning given for "hotel" in s. 97.01 (7).

b. "Tourist rooming house" has the meaning given in s. 97.01 (15k).

2. Subject to subds. 3. to 6., no person may do any of the following:

a. Refuse to allow entrance into, or use of, or otherwise deny the full and equal enjoyment of a hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house to a dog handler be-

cause the dog handler is accompanied by a search and rescue dog.

b. Charge an individual a higher price than the regular rate, including a deposit or surcharge, for the full and equal enjoyment of a hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house because the individual is a dog handler and is accompanied by a search and rescue dog.

c. Directly or indirectly publish, circulate, display, or mail any written communication that the communicator knows is to the effect that entrance into, or use of, or the full and equal enjoyment of any of the facilities of the hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house will be denied to an individual because the individual is a dog handler accompanied by a search and rescue dog or that the patronage of such an individual is unwelcome, objectionable, or unacceptable because the individual is accompanied by a search and rescue dog.

3. The prohibitions specified in subd. 2. apply only if the dog accompanying the dog handler is wearing a harness or cape that indicates that the dog is a search and rescue dog and the search and rescue dog is leashed. Subdivision 2. does not prohibit a dog handler who is accompanied by a dog from being asked whether the dog is a search and rescue dog and does not prohibit the dog handler from being required to produce a certifica-

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."

tion or other credential that verifies that the dog is a search and rescue dog.

4. A person may exclude a search and rescue dog from a hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house if accommodation of the search and rescue dog would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the accommodations provided or would jeopardize the safe operation of the hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house. If a search and rescue dog must be separated from the dog handler accompanying the search and rescue dog, it is the responsibility of that dog handler to arrange for the care and supervision of the search and rescue dog during the period of separation.

5. A dog handler who is accompanied by a search and rescue dog in a hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house is liable for sanitation with respect to the search and rescue dog and damage to the establishment caused by the search and rescue dog.

6. A hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house shall modify its policies, practices, and procedures to permit

the full and equal enjoyment of the hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house by a dog handler who is accompanied by a search and rescue dog. Those policies, practices, and procedures shall ensure that a dog handler who is accompanied by a search and rescue dog is not separated from the search and rescue dog, that the search and rescue dog is allowed to accompany the dog handler to all areas of the hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house that are open to the general public, and that the dog handler is not segregated from other patrons of the hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house.

7. A dog handler who is accompanied by a search and rescue dog in a hotel, inn, motel, or tourist rooming house may be asked by the owner or operator of the establishment to present documentation from the law enforcement agency, fire department, or emergency management service the dog handler is working with that the search and rescue dog is a legitimate search and rescue dog that meets the definition under sub. (1) (fe).
