

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
2016 Bill/Resolution



Committee: Military and Veteran's Affairs

Principal Author: Michaela Vigil-Lujan

Bill No.: H71

Delegation: ALA NM Girls State 2016

Status: Failed in committee

Title of Bill: Service Dogs for Veteran's Act

1 **Section I. Body:** there are two (2) main issues to be resolved with this Act. 1. Veterans
2 that come home from war may feel alienated or lonely since they have belonged to a
3 close-knit unit while in combat. Therefore, providing veteran's in need with a service
4 dog would be beneficial because they could have someone to keep them company and
5 help them overcome their problems. 2. Over euthanization of dogs in pounds. By
6 providing an alternative outlet for these dogs we could keep many of these animals from
7 dying without cause and provide more space for other animals found on the street.
8 These are both issues because veteran homelessness can be caused by veteran's
9 inability to cope with returning to "normal life" and the over euthanization of dogs is
10 irrational and the dogs can be trained for a useful job.

11 **Be It Enacted By The American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State 2016**

12 **Section II. Definitions:** train dogs that are in the pounds to become service dogs for
13 veterans.

14 **Section III. Penalty:** this bill will lessen the over euthanization of dogs in the pounds
15 and the suicide rates of veterans. In addition, it will provide any veteran the opportunity
16 to use a service dog as a coping mechanism for the events they experience in combat.
17 Also the use of service dogs lessens and change the medication needed by some
18 veterans.

19 **Section IV. Repeal:** all laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the
20 constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are
21 hereby repealed.
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23 **Section V. Effective Date:** the act shall become effective immediately upon its passage
24 and approval by the American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State governor or its
25 otherwise becoming law.