

AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978 TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS FOR ASSISTANCE ANIMALS AND THEIR TRAINERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 28-11-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989, Chapter 242, Section 1) is amended to read:

"28-11-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in Section 28-11-3 NMSA 1978, "qualified assistance animal" means:

A. a dog trained or being trained by a recognized school for training dogs to assist persons with disabilities;

B. an animal recognized as a service animal pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; or

C. any other animal approved by the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped as acceptable in public places and trained to provide some special assistance to a person with a disability."

Section 2. Section 28-11-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989, Chapter 242, Section 2) is amended to read:

"28-11-3. ADMITTANCE OF QUALIFIED ASSISTANCE ANIMALS.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a qualified assistance animal shall be admitted to any building open to the public and to all public accommodations such as restaurants, hotels, hospitals, swimming pools, stores,

