

**As Reported by the House Health Committee**

**128th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2009-2010**

**H. B. No. 399**

**Representative Bacon**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Derickson, Murray, Gardner, Grossman,  
Huffman, Evans, Adams, J., Morgan, Coley, Lundy, Sears, Adams, R.,  
Chandler, Stebelton, Beck, Okey, Stautberg**

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**A B I L L**

To amend section 955.011 of the Revised Code to 1  
revise the definition of "mobility impaired 2  
person" to include a person who is diagnosed with 3  
autism for purposes of the statutes governing 4  
assistance dogs. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 955.011 of the Revised Code be 6  
amended to read as follows: 7

**Sec. 955.011.** (A) When an application is made for 8  
registration of an assistance dog and the owner can show proof by 9  
certificate or other means that the dog is an assistance dog, the 10  
owner of the dog shall be exempt from any fee for the 11  
registration. Registration for an assistance dog shall be 12  
permanent and not subject to annual renewal so long as the dog is 13  
an assistance dog. Certificates and tags stamped "Ohio Assistance 14  
Dog-Permanent Registration," with registration number, shall be 15  
issued upon registration of such a dog. Any certificate and tag 16  
stamped "Ohio Guide Dog-Permanent Registration" or "Ohio Hearing 17

Dog-Permanent Registration," with registration number, that was 18  
issued for a dog in accordance with this section as it existed 19  
prior to July 4, 1984, any certificate and tag stamped "Ohio 20  
Handicapped Assistance Dog-Permanent Registration," with 21  
registration number, that was issued for a dog in accordance with 22  
this section as it existed on and after July 5, 1984, but prior to 23  
November 26, 2004, and any certificate and tag stamped "Ohio 24  
Service Dog-Permanent Registration," with registration number, 25  
that was issued for a dog in accordance with this section as it 26  
existed on and after November 26, 2004, but prior to ~~the effective~~ 27  
~~date of this amendment~~ June 30, 2006, shall remain in effect as 28  
valid proof of the registration of the dog on and after November 29  
26, 2004. Duplicate certificates and tags for a dog registered in 30  
accordance with this section, upon proper proof of loss, shall be 31  
issued and no fee required. Each duplicate certificate and tag 32  
that is issued shall be stamped "Ohio Assistance Dog-Permanent 33  
Registration." 34

(B) As used in this section and in sections 955.16 and 955.43 35  
of the Revised Code: 36

(1) "Mobility impaired person" means any person, regardless 37  
of age, who is subject to a physiological defect or deficiency 38  
regardless of its cause, nature, or extent that renders the person 39  
unable to move about without the aid of crutches, a wheelchair, or 40  
any other form of support, or that limits the person's functional 41  
ability to ambulate, climb, descend, sit, rise, or perform any 42  
related function. "Mobility impaired person" includes a person 43  
with a neurological or psychological disability that limits the 44  
person's functional ability to ambulate, climb, descend, sit, 45  
rise, or perform any related function. "Mobility impaired person" 46  
also includes a person with a seizure disorder and a person who is 47  
diagnosed with autism. 48

(2) "Blind" means either of the following: 49

(a) Vision twenty/two hundred or less in the better eye with proper correction;	50 51
(b) Field defect in the better eye with proper correction that contracts the peripheral field so that the diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees.	52 53 54
(3) "Assistance dog" means a guide dog, hearing dog, or service dog that has been trained by a nonprofit special agency.	55 56
(4) "Guide dog" means a dog that has been trained or is in training to assist a blind person.	57 58
(5) "Hearing dog" means a dog that has been trained or is in training to assist a deaf or hearing-impaired person.	59 60
(6) "Service dog" means a dog that has been trained or is in training to assist a mobility impaired person.	61 62
<b>Section 2.</b> That existing section 955.011 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.	63 64