Bill No.: HB0114  Effective:  7/1/2017

LSO No.: 17LSO-0365

Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0079

Chapter No.: [Chapter Number_RO]

Prime Sponsor: Brown

Catch Title: Service and assistance animals.

Subject: Service and assistance animals.

Summary/Major Elements:

- This bill updates Wyoming Statutes to conform to federal provisions concerning service animals and assistance animals. Previously, state law addressed only service dogs.

- The bill defines "service animal" to include a service dog or service miniature horse, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

- Presently, "assistance animal" is not defined under federal law. This bill defines "assistance animal" to mean an animal that works, provides assistance or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability.

- The bill creates a misdemeanor offense for knowingly and intentionally misrepresenting a service or assistance animal.

- The bill clarifies a service animal must be allowed in a place of public accommodation or a public entity's facility in accordance with the ADA.

- The bill provides a person may not be discriminated against in leasing or renting residential property because the person has an assistance animal. The bill provides a person is liable for any damage his assistance animal causes to leased or rented residential property.

- The bill provides a public accommodation, or any agent or employee thereof, that permits a service animal or an animal believed in good faith to be a service animal in its place of public accommodation is not liable for any damage or injury the animal causes.

- The bill criminalizes killing or injuring a service or assistance animal. A person who kills or injures a service or assistance animal must pay to replace the animal, if killed, or retrain the animal, if injured.

The above summary is not an official publication of the Wyoming Legislature and is not an official statement of legislative intent. While the Legislative Service Office endeavored to provide accurate information in this summary, it should not be relied upon as a comprehensive abstract of the bill.