

SUPPORTING REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS IN RENTAL HOUSING FOR SERVICE AND SUPPORT ANIMALS

H.F. 566, Rep. Fischer
S.F. 529, Sen. Duckworth

What the Proposal Does:

This legislation provides statutory clarity for tenants and landlords on the process of requesting a reasonable accommodation for a service or support animal in a no-pet or fee-for-pet rental unit. It provides that, where a resident's or prospective resident's disability is not readily apparent, a licensed medical professional must provide documentation stating the need for an accommodation for a service or support animal. Similar bipartisan legislation regarding service animals in grocery stores and other establishments was enacted in 2018.

What Problem Does It Solve:

This legislation is intended to curb the increasing use of questionable accommodation and documentation practices provided by online services. It provides appropriate certainty to landlords that requests for reasonable accommodations for service and support animals are reliably documented and ensures that the rights granted under the Federal Fair Housing Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act are protected.

Why We Support It:

- It represents an agreement and is supported by stakeholders on this issue.
- It preserves and protects the rights of persons with disabilities seeking a reasonable accommodation in rental housing.
- It clearly delineates tenant and landlord responsibilities when a reasonable accommodation for a service or support animal is made.
- It establishes clear guidelines on what constitutes legitimate documentation to support the request.
- It creates easily understood best practices and clear procedures.

*Please **SUPPORT** this legislation.*

Minnesota Multi-Housing Association (MHA)
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid