

Dog Control (Hearing Dogs) Amendment Bill

Member's Bill

Explanatory note

The purpose of this bill is to allow the hearing ear dogs, registered by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People in New Zealand and used by people who are deaf or severely hearing impaired, to be granted all the rights presently available to guide dogs used by people who are blind.

By including references to hearing ear dogs and to deaf people in the appropriate places of the principal Act, it will allow the hearing ear dogs to accompany their owners into public places such as airports, or into restaurants, where at present their entry is at best subject to question and often refusal.

Hon Marie Hasler

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The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title

- (1) This Act is the Dog Control (Hearing Dogs) Amendment Act **2001**.
- (2) In this Act, the Dog Control Act 1996¹ is called “the principal Act”.
- ¹ 1996 No 13

2 Commencement

This Act comes into force the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

3 Interpretation 10

Section 2 of the principal Act is amended by omitting from the definition of **hearing ear dog** the words “the Hearing Association of New Zealand (Incorporated)”, and substituting the words “Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand Trust”.

4 Guide dogs and companion dogs 15

- (1) Section 75 of the principal Act is amended by inserting in the section heading, after the words “**guide dogs**”, the words “, **hearing ear dogs**”.
- (2) Section 75 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, after the words “guide dog” in both places where they occur, the words “, hearing ear dog”.
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- (3) Section 75 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, after the words “partially sighted person”, the words “, a deaf or hearing impaired person,”.