 ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT Legislative Bill	ASSEMBLY Bill # 7						
	Referred to Committee: A						
Authors: Will Braxton and Ethan Murphy	Action on the Bill <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">House</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
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1 **AN ACT TO** : Prevent non-service animals or emotional support animals from going in public facilities that
2 prohibit pets.

3
4 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate***
5 ***and Assembly, do enact as follows:***
6

7 **PURPOSE:** We have introduced this bill to differentiate trained Service Animals and “Emotional
8 Support Animals,” from people who bring their animals into public facilities that prohibit pets.

9
10 **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS :**

11 Section 1: Definitions

12
13 Service Animal: A service animal is any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform
14 tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric,
15 intellectual, or other mental disability.


16
17 Emotional Support Animal: An emotional support animal (ESA) is a companion animal that a
18 medical professional or licensed counselor has determined provides benefit for an individual with a
19 disability; however, these may or may not be trained, and there is no current regulation of this
20 term.

21
22 Public Facility: A public facility is a building in which government operations or activities are held,
23 and other facilities such as restaurants, stores, parks, and buildings, in which the public may be
24 free to come and go.

25
26 Insignia: A badge or distinguishing mark of military rank, office, or membership of an organization;
27 an official emblem, usually engraved on a person’s driver license.

28
29 Section 2:

30 (1) All Emotional Support Animals and Service Animals in New York State must possess a valid
31 Service Animal/ Emotional Support Animal License or Insignia, to be held by their owner to justify
32 entering any public facility that prohibits animals.

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1 (2) Service Animal or Emotional Support Animal owners who wish to bring their animal into a
2 public place that normally prohibits animals, must show proof of the animal’s validity by license or
3 insignia.

4 **JUSTIFICATION:** In New York State today, we have an extreme problem of people abusing the
5 right to bring a service animal or emotional support animal into a public facility. People who wish
6 to bring their pets onto public property often abuse this right. People can abuse this right by
7 simply lying when asked about their animal, as the manager can only ask a person with a service
8 animal two questions; Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability? And, what
9 work or task has the animal been trained to perform? Due to the leisure of the bill, many people
10 can cheat the system by saying “Yes” and “He/She is trained for my mental disability”. Just like
11 that, even if the animal is not a service animal, and the owner of the animal clearly does not have
12 a disability, there are few actions that manager or the facility can take. The clear flaw in the
13 system can be solved by a simple license on a small card, or an insignia that states the validity of
14 the service animal. This insignia can be easily engraved into a person’s driver license, to justify
15 their animal, or a license placed on a small card indicating the animals name, purpose, and owners
16 name. This simple and easy solution can eliminate the problem of people entering public facilities
17 with their animal, who do not have a disability.

18
19 **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** This bill would have little economic effect. It would only cost a small fee
20 to engrave an insignia on a person’s ID, or to have a license mailed to you. This license will not
21 add any cost to registering the animal, as it will be mandatory if you wish to be in public with you
22 service/emotional support animal. This license will be easily accessible by all people who already
23 have a service animal.

24
25 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill shall go into effect immediately by distributing licenses and engraving
26 insignia’s, but will not be enforced until January 1, 2018.