



SPONSOR: Rep. Briggs King & Sen. Paradee
Reps. Shupe, K. Williams

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 486

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 13 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DISPOSITION OF MARITAL
PROPERTY; ANIMALS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 1513, Title 13 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
2 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

3 § 1513. Disposition of marital property; imposition of lien; insurance policies.

4 (a) In a proceeding for divorce or annulment, the Court shall, upon request of either party, equitably divide,
5 distribute and assign the marital property between the parties without regard to marital misconduct, in such proportions as
6 the Court deems just after considering all relevant factors including:

7 (1) The length of the marriage;

8 (2) Any prior marriage of the party;

9 (3) The age, health, station, amount and sources of income, vocational skills, employability, estate, liabilities
10 and needs of each of the parties;

11 (4) Whether the property award is in lieu of or in addition to alimony;

12 (5) The opportunity of each for future acquisitions of capital assets and income;

13 (6) The contribution or dissipation of each party in the acquisition, preservation, depreciation or appreciation
14 of the marital property, including the contribution of a party as homemaker, husband, or wife;

15 (7) The value of the property set apart to each party;

16 (8) The economic circumstances of each party at the time the division of property is to become effective,
17 including the desirability of awarding the family home or the right to live therein for reasonable periods to the party
18 with whom any children of the marriage will live;

19 (9) Whether the property was acquired by gift, except those gifts excluded by paragraph (b)(1) of this section;

20 (10) The debts of the parties; and

21 (11) Tax consequences;

22 (12) Whether the property is an animal that is utilized by a particular party as a service, alert, companion,
23 guide, therapeutic, or emotional support animal.

SYNOPSIS

This Bill changes divorce and annulment property division law to have Family Court consider whether an animal is a service or support animal to a particular party when allocating such an animal to a party.