
By: Senator Madden

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1997

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Guide Dog Trainers - Access to Facilities Open to Public**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from denying a guide dog trainer certain access
4 to certain modes of transportation or certain facilities because the guide dog trainer
5 is accompanied by a dog being specially trained to assist an individual with a vision
6 or hearing disability; prohibiting the imposition of extra charges for guide dog
7 trainers accompanied by certain dogs; authorizing the liability of guide dog trainers
8 for damage certain dogs cause to a facility; providing for certain penalties and
9 remedies; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to the access of
10 guide dog trainers to certain facilities.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article 30 - Deaf, Mute or Blind
13 Section 33(d)(1), (f), and (g)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article 30 - Deaf, Mute or Blind**

19 33.

20 (d) (1) The blind or the visually handicapped and the deaf or hearing impaired
21 are entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of all
22 common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motor buses, streetcars, boats
23 or other public conveyances or modes of transportation, hotels, lodging places, places of
24 public accommodations, amusement, or resort, or other places to which the general public
25 is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable
26 to all [persons] INDIVIDUALS.

27 (f) (1) Every blind or visually handicapped [person] INDIVIDUAL or deaf or
28 hearing impaired [person] INDIVIDUAL has the right to be accompanied by a guide dog,
29 especially trained for the purpose, in any of the places listed in [paragraph (1) of]
30 subsection (d)(1) of this section, without being required to pay an extra charge for the
31 guide dog; however, [he] THE INDIVIDUAL is liable for any damage done to the
32 premises or facilities by [his] THE dog.

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1 (2) A PERSON MAY NOT DENY A GUIDE DOG TRAINER THE FULL AND
2 EQUAL ACCOMMODATIONS, ADVANTAGES, FACILITIES, AND PRIVILEGES
3 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS SECTION BECAUSE THE GUIDE DOG
4 TRAINER IS ACCOMPANIED BY A DOG BEING SPECIALLY TRAINED TO ASSIST AN
5 INDIVIDUAL WITH A VISION OR HEARING DISABILITY.

6 (3) A GUIDE DOG TRAINER ACCOMPANIED BY A DOG DESCRIBED
7 UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION:

8 (I) MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY AN EXTRA CHARGE FOR THE
9 DOG; AND

10 (II) MAY BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGE THE DOG CAUSES TO THE
11 FACILITY.

12 (g) (1) Any person or persons, firm, or corporation, or the agent of any person
13 or persons, firm, or corporation, who denies or interferes with admittance to or
14 enjoyment of the public facilities enumerated in this section, or otherwise interferes with
15 the rights of a blind or visually handicapped [person] INDIVIDUAL or a deaf or hearing
16 impaired [person] INDIVIDUAL under this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor and
17 subject upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500 for each offense.

18 (2) In addition to any other remedy provided under this Code for a violation
19 of this article, any individual, firm, or corporation, or the agent of any individual, firm, or
20 corporation, who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public
21 facilities enumerated in this section, or otherwise interferes with the rights of a blind or
22 visually handicapped [person] INDIVIDUAL or a deaf or hearing impaired [person]
23 INDIVIDUAL under this section, may be subject to a civil action for injunctive relief.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 1997.