

# SENATE BILL 570

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71r1272

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By: **Senator Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Lodging Establishments – Individuals with Disabilities – Reservation of**  
3 **Rooms to Facilitate Emergency Rescue**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring lodging establishments with a certain number of rooms  
5 for guests to reserve a certain number of accessible rooms for individuals with  
6 disabilities until a certain time and on a certain floor of the lodging  
7 establishment in order to facilitate emergency rescue of individuals with  
8 disabilities; requiring certain staff of the lodging establishment to offer certain  
9 rooms to individuals with disabilities; requiring lodging establishments to  
10 establish a certain emergency rescue procedure and to provide certain training  
11 to personnel; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the  
12 accommodation of individuals with disabilities in lodging establishments.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Business Regulation

15 Section 15–207

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Business Regulation**

21 **15–207.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**  
2 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

3           **(2) "ACCESSIBLE ROOM" MEANS A ROOM IN A LODGING**  
4 **ESTABLISHMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**  
5 **ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.**

6           **(3) "FRONT DESK STAFF" INCLUDES A MANAGER, ASSISTANT**  
7 **MANAGER, CONCIERGE, DESK CLERK, OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF**  
8 **A LODGING ESTABLISHMENT WHO KNOWS OR HAS REASON TO KNOW THAT AN**  
9 **INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO REQUIRES AN ACCESSIBLE ROOM IS**  
10 **CHECKING INTO THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT.**

11           **(B) THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION APPLY ONLY TO LODGING**  
12 **ESTABLISHMENTS WITH 50 OR MORE ROOMS FOR GUESTS.**

13           **(C) IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE EMERGENCY RESCUE OF**  
14 **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, EACH LODGING ESTABLISHMENT SUBJECT TO**  
15 **THIS SECTION SHALL RESERVE ONE ACCESSIBLE ROOM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH**  
16 **DISABILITIES:**

17           **(1) UNTIL ALL OTHER SLEEPING ROOMS ARE OCCUPIED OR THE**  
18 **ROOM IS RENTED TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY; AND**

19           **(2) ON THE LOWEST FLOOR OF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT**  
20 **THAT HAS ROOMS FOR GUESTS.**

21           **(D) FRONT DESK STAFF SHALL:**

22           **(1) FIRST OFFER AN ACCESSIBLE ROOM ON THE LOWEST FLOOR**  
23 **OF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT THAT HAS ROOMS FOR GUESTS, IF**  
24 **UNOCCUPIED, TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO REQUIRES AN**  
25 **ACCESSIBLE ROOM BEFORE OFFERING THE INDIVIDUAL A ROOM ON ANOTHER**  
26 **FLOOR; AND**

27           **(2) NOTE THE USE OF A ROOM ON ANY FLOOR BY AN INDIVIDUAL**  
28 **WITH A DISABILITY WHO REQUIRES AN ACCESSIBLE ROOM IN ORDER TO ADVISE**  
29 **EMERGENCY PERSONNEL OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S LOCATION IN THE EVENT OF**  
30 **EVACUATION.**

1           **(E) EACH LODGING ESTABLISHMENT SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL:**

2                   **(1) ESTABLISH AN EMERGENCY RESCUE PROCEDURE FOR**  
3 **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO ARE GUESTS OF THE LODGING**  
4 **ESTABLISHMENT; AND**

5                   **(2) TRAIN PERSONNEL OF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT ON**  
6 **HOW TO BEST ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE EVENT OF**  
7 **EVACUATION.**

8           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 October 1, 2007.