

Chapter 305

(Senate Bill 804)

AN ACT concerning

Human Services – Service Animal Trainers – Nondiscrimination

FOR the purpose of altering certain provisions of law establishing certain rights and privileges for individuals with disabilities to include certain service animal trainers; altering certain provisions of law relating to the use of service animals by individuals with disabilities to include service animal trainers; altering a certain definition; and generally relating to nondiscrimination against service animal trainers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 7–701(h) and 7–704
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

Article – Human Services

7–701.

(h) “Service animal trainer” means a person who trains **OR RAISES** service animals for individuals with disabilities, **WHETHER THE PERSON IS A PROFESSIONAL OR VOLUNTEER.**

7–704.

(a) Individuals with disabilities [and], the parents of a minor child with a disability, **AND SERVICE ANIMAL TRAINERS WHO ARE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ANIMAL BEING TRAINED OR RAISED AS A SERVICE ANIMAL** have the same right as individuals without disabilities to the full and free use of the roads, sidewalks, public buildings, public facilities, and other public places.

(b) (1) Individuals with disabilities [and], the parents of a minor child with a disability, **AND SERVICE ANIMAL TRAINERS WHO ARE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ANIMAL BEING TRAINED OR RAISED AS A SERVICE ANIMAL** are entitled to full and equal rights and privileges with respect to common carriers and other public conveyances or modes of transportation, places of public accommodations, and other

places to which the general public is invited, subject only to any conditions and limitations of general application established by law.

(2) The failure of a blind or visually impaired pedestrian to carry a cane predominantly white or metallic in color, with or without a red tip, or an individual with a disability or a parent of a minor child with a disability to use a service animal wearing an orange license tag or orange collar and on a leash, or to use a service animal in a place, accommodation, or conveyance listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection does not constitute contributory negligence per se.

(c) (1) This subsection does not apply to any accommodations or single family residence in which the occupants offer for compensation not more than one room.

(2) An individual with a disability [or], a parent of a minor child with a disability, **OR A SERVICE ANIMAL TRAINER WHO IS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ANIMAL BEING TRAINED OR RAISED AS A SERVICE ANIMAL** is entitled to the same access as other members of the general public to housing accommodations in the State, subject to any conditions and limitations of general application established by law.

(3) An individual with a disability [or], a parent of a minor child with a disability, **OR A SERVICE ANIMAL TRAINER** who has, obtains, or may wish to obtain a service animal **OR AN ANIMAL TO BE TRAINED OR RAISED AS A SERVICE ANIMAL** is entitled to full and equal access to housing accommodations.

(4) An individual with a disability [or], a parent of a minor child with a disability, **OR A SERVICE ANIMAL TRAINER** who is accompanied by a service animal **OR AN ANIMAL BEING TRAINED OR RAISED AS A SERVICE ANIMAL** may not be required to pay extra compensation for the service animal, but the individual may be liable for damages to the premises or facilities that the service animal causes.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2012.