



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5452

LCO No. 1463

01463 _____ GL_

Referred to Committee on General Law

Introduced by:
(GL)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ENTRANCE TO PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS
FOR THE TRAINING OF THERAPY DOGS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46a-44 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2004*):

3 (a) Any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or any person
4 training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person, [or] a dog to assist a
5 deaf or mobility impaired person or a therapy dog to be used by
6 another person or persons may travel on a train or on any other mode
7 of public transportation, and may enter any other place of public
8 accommodation which caters or offers its services or facilities or goods
9 to the general public, including but not limited to, any public building,
10 inn, restaurant, hotel, motel, tourist cabin, place of amusement, resort
11 or any facility of any such public accommodation, accompanied by
12 [his] a guide dog, [or] assistance dog or therapy dog, and [he] such
13 person may keep such dog with [him] such person at all times in any
14 such public accommodation or facility thereof at no extra charge,
15 provided such dog shall be in the direct custody of such person and
16 shall be wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar.

17 (b) Any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or any person
18 training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person, [or] a dog to assist a
19 deaf or mobility impaired person or a therapy dog to be used by
20 another person or persons shall be entitled to visit any place of public
21 accommodation, resort or amusement or a dwelling as a guest of a
22 lawful occupant thereof, accompanied by [his] a guide dog, [or]
23 assistance dog or therapy dog, and [he] such person may keep such
24 dog with [him] such person at all times in such public accommodation,
25 resort, amusement or dwelling at no extra charge, provided such dog
26 shall be in the direct custody of such person and shall be wearing a
27 harness or an orange-colored leash and collar. No such blind, deaf or
28 mobility impaired person or person training a dog as a guide dog for a
29 blind person, [or] a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person or
30 a therapy dog to be used by another person or persons shall be
31 charged any fee not applicable alike to all guests, provided the owner
32 of such dog shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or
33 facilities by such dog. For the purposes of this subsection, (1) a "place
34 of public accommodation, resort or amusement" means any
35 establishment which caters or offers its services or facilities or goods to
36 the general public, including, but not limited to, any commercial
37 building lot, on which it is intended that a commercial property or
38 building will be constructed or offered for sale or rent, and (2)
39 "dwelling" means any building, structure, mobile manufactured home
40 park or portion thereof which is occupied as, or designed or intended
41 for occupancy as, a residence by one or more families, and any vacant
42 land which is offered for sale or lease for the construction or location
43 thereon of any such building, structure, mobile manufactured home
44 park or portion thereof, provided the provisions of this subsection
45 shall not apply to (A) the rental of a room or rooms in a single-family
46 dwelling unit if the owner actually maintains and occupies part of
47 such living quarters as [his] the owner's residence or (B) a unit in a
48 dwelling containing living quarters occupied or intended to be
49 occupied by no more than two families living independently of each
50 other, if the owner actually maintains and occupies the other such

51 living quarters as [his] the owner's residence.

52 (c) Any person who denies the rights afforded to blind, deaf or
53 mobility impaired persons or persons training a dog as a guide dog for
54 a blind person, [or] a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person
55 or a therapy dog to be used by another person or persons under
56 subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be guilty of a class C
57 misdemeanor, provided such blind, deaf or mobility impaired person
58 or person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to
59 assist a deaf or mobility impaired person complies with the applicable
60 provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section.

61 (d) For purposes of this section, (1) "guide dog" or "assistance dog"
62 includes a dog being trained as a guide dog or assistance dog, [and] (2)
63 "person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to
64 assist a deaf or mobility impaired person" means a person who is
65 employed by and authorized to engage in designated training
66 activities by a guide dog organization or assistance dog organization
67 that complies with the criteria for membership in a professional
68 association of guide dog or assistance dog schools and who carries
69 photographic identification indicating such employment and
70 authorization, and (3) "therapy dog" means a dog trained to aid the
71 emotional health of patients in hospitals and residents of nursing
72 homes and retirement homes.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2004

Statement of Purpose:

To allow persons who are training therapy dogs to have entrance to places such as malls and restaurants.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]