



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 971

LCO No. 3450

* SB00971TRAHS_032111 *

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS USING ASSISTANCE DOGS IN CONNECTION WITH A HEALTH CONDITION.

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 Section 46a-44 of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2011*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Guide dog" or "assistance dog" means a dog trained as a guide
5 dog or assistance dog by a person described in subdivision (2) of this
6 subsection and includes a dog being trained as a guide dog or
7 assistance dog by such person;

8 (2) "Person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog
9 to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person" means a person who is
10 employed by and authorized to engage in designated training
11 activities by a guide dog organization or an assistance dog
12 organization that complies with the criteria for membership in a
13 professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools and
14 who carries photographic identification indicating such employment
15 and authorization, or a person who volunteers for a guide dog

16 organization or an assistance dog organization that authorizes such
17 volunteers to raise dogs to become guide dogs or assistance dogs and
18 causes the identification of such dog with (A) identification tags, (B)
19 ear tattoos, (C) identifying bandanas on puppies, (D) identifying coats
20 on adult dogs, or (E) leashes and collars;

21 (3) "Place of public accommodation, resort or amusement" means
22 any establishment which caters or offers its services or facilities or
23 goods to the general public, including, but not limited to, any
24 commercial building lot, on which it is intended that a commercial
25 property or building will be constructed or offered for sale or rent; and

26 (4) "Dwelling" means any building, structure, mobile manufactured
27 home park or portion thereof which is occupied as, or designed or
28 intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more families, and
29 any vacant land which is offered for sale or lease for the construction
30 or location thereon of any such building, structure, mobile
31 manufactured home park or portion thereof, provided the provisions
32 of this subdivision shall not apply to (A) the rental of a room or rooms
33 in a single-family dwelling unit if the owner actually maintains and
34 occupies part of such living quarters as his residence, or (B) a unit in a
35 dwelling containing living quarters occupied or intended to be
36 occupied by not more than two families living independently of each
37 other, if the owner actually maintains and occupies the other such
38 living quarters as his residence.

39 [(a)] (b) Any (1) blind, deaf or mobility impaired person, [or any] (2)
40 person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to
41 assist a deaf or mobility impaired person, or (3) person utilizing an
42 assistance dog in connection with a physician-documented health
43 condition, including, but not limited to, the use of an assistance dog to
44 detect allergens or the onset of seizures, may travel on a train or on any
45 other mode of public transportation, and may enter any other place of
46 public accommodation which caters or offers its services or facilities or
47 goods to the general public, including, but not limited to, any public
48 building, inn, restaurant, hotel, motel, tourist cabin, place of

49 amusement, resort or any facility of any such public accommodation,
50 accompanied by [his] the guide dog or assistance dog, and [he] such
51 person may [keep such dog with him] be accompanied by such dog at
52 all times in any such public accommodation or facility thereof at no
53 extra charge, provided such dog shall be in the direct custody of such
54 person and shall be wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and
55 collar.

56 [(b)] (c) Any (1) blind, deaf or mobility impaired person, [or any] (2)
57 person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to
58 assist a deaf or mobility impaired person, or (3) person utilizing an
59 assistance dog in connection with a physician-documented health
60 condition, including, but not limited to, the use of an assistance dog to
61 detect allergens or the onset of seizures, shall be entitled to visit any
62 place of public accommodation, resort or amusement or a dwelling as
63 a guest of a lawful occupant thereof, accompanied by [his] the guide
64 dog or assistance dog, and [he] such person may [keep such dog with
65 him] be accompanied by such dog at all times in such public
66 accommodation, resort, amusement or dwelling at no extra charge,
67 provided such dog shall be in the direct custody of such person and
68 shall be wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar. No
69 [such] blind, deaf or mobility impaired person, [or] person training a
70 dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or
71 mobility impaired person or person utilizing an assistance dog in
72 connection with a physician-documented health condition, including,
73 but not limited to, the use of an assistance dog to detect allergens or
74 the onset of seizures, shall be charged any fee not applicable alike to all
75 guests, provided the owner of such dog shall be liable for any damage
76 done to the premises or facilities by such dog. [For the purposes of this
77 subsection, (1) a "place of public accommodation, resort or
78 amusement" means any establishment which caters or offers its
79 services or facilities or goods to the general public, including, but not
80 limited to, any commercial building lot, on which it is intended that a
81 commercial property or building will be constructed or offered for sale
82 or rent, and (2) "dwelling" means any building, structure, mobile

83 manufactured home park or portion thereof which is occupied as, or
84 designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more
85 families, and any vacant land which is offered for sale or lease for the
86 construction or location thereon of any such building, structure,
87 mobile manufactured home park or portion thereof, provided the
88 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to (A) the rental of a room
89 or rooms in a single-family dwelling unit if the owner actually
90 maintains and occupies part of such living quarters as his residence or
91 (B) a unit in a dwelling containing living quarters occupied or
92 intended to be occupied by no more than two families living
93 independently of each other, if the owner actually maintains and
94 occupies the other such living quarters as his residence.]

95 [(c)] (d) Any person who denies the rights afforded to (1) blind, deaf
96 or mobility impaired persons, [or] (2) persons training a dog as a guide
97 dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired
98 person, or (3) persons utilizing an assistance dog in connection with a
99 physician-documented health condition, including, but not limited to,
100 the use of an assistance dog to detect allergens or the onset of seizures,
101 under [subsections (a) and (b)] subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall
102 be guilty of a class C misdemeanor, provided such blind, deaf or
103 mobility impaired person, [or] person training a dog as a guide dog for
104 a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person or
105 person utilizing an assistance dog in connection with a physician-
106 documented health condition, including, but not limited to, the use of
107 an assistance dog to detect allergens or the onset of seizures, complies
108 with the applicable provisions of subsection [(a) or (b)] (b) or (c) of this
109 section.

110 [(d) For purposes of this section, "guide dog" or "assistance dog"
111 includes a dog being trained as a guide dog or assistance dog and
112 "person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to
113 assist a deaf or mobility impaired person" means a person who is
114 employed by and authorized to engage in designated training
115 activities by a guide dog organization or assistance dog organization

