

1980

c 44 Blind Persons' Rights Act

Ontario

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CHAPTER 44

Blind Persons' Rights Act

1.—(1) In this Act,

Interpretation

(a) "blind person" means a person who because of blindness is dependent on a dog guide or white cane;

(b) "dog guide" means a dog trained as a guide for a blind person and having the qualifications prescribed by the regulations.

(2) This Act applies notwithstanding any other Act or any regulation, by-law or rule made thereunder.

Application

(3) This Act binds the Crown. 1976, c. 14, s. 1.

Act binds Crown

2.—(1) No person, directly or indirectly, alone or with another, by himself or by the interposition of another, shall,

Dog guides permitted in places to which public admitted

(a) deny to any person the accommodation, services or facilities available in any place to which the public is customarily admitted; or

(b) discriminate against any person with respect to the accommodation, services or facilities available in any place to which the public is customarily admitted, or the charges for the use thereof,

for the reason that he is a blind person accompanied by a dog guide.

(2) No person, directly or indirectly, alone or with another, by himself or by the interposition of another, shall,

Dog guides permitted in self-contained dwelling unit

(a) deny to any person occupancy of any self-contained dwelling unit; or

(b) discriminate against any person with respect to any term or condition of occupancy of any self-contained dwelling unit,

for the reason that he is a blind person keeping or customarily accompanied by a dog guide.

Other facilities

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to entitle a blind person to require any service, facility or accommodation in respect of a dog guide other than the right to be accompanied by the dog guide. 1976, c. 14, s. 2.

Restriction on use of white cane

3. No person, other than a blind person, shall carry or use a cane or walking stick, the major part of which is white, in any public place, public thoroughfare or public conveyance. 1976, c. 14, s. 3.

Identification cards

4.—(1) The Attorney General or an officer of his Ministry designated by him in writing may, upon application therefor, issue to a blind person an identification card identifying the blind person and his dog guide.

Cards as *prima facie* proof of qualification

(2) An identification card issued under subsection (1) is *prima facie* proof that the blind person and his dog guide identified therein are qualified for the purposes of this Act.

Surrender of cards

(3) Any person to whom an identification card is issued under subsection (1) shall, upon the request of the Attorney General or an officer of his Ministry designated by him in writing, surrender his identification card for amendment or cancellation. 1976, c. 14, s. 4.

Regulations

5. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations prescribing qualifications for dog guides. 1976, c. 14, s. 5.

Penalty

6.—(1) Every person who is in contravention of section 2 is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

Idem

(2) Every person who is in contravention of section 3 or of subsection 4 (3) or who, not being a blind person, purports to be a blind person for the purpose of claiming the benefit of this Act is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine not exceeding \$100. 1976, c. 14, s. 6.