

1976 Bill 239

Second Session, 18th Legislature, 25 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 239

THE BLIND PERSONS' GUIDE DOGS ACT

MR. LITTLE

First Reading

Second Reading

Third Reading

Bill 239
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1976

THE BLIND PERSONS' GUIDE DOGS ACT

(Assented to _____, 1976)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. (1) In this Act,
 - (a) "blind person" means a person who is a blind person within the meaning of the *Blind Persons' White Cane Act*;
 - (b) "guide dog" means a dog trained as a guide for a blind person and having the qualifications prescribed by the regulations;
 - (c) "Minister" means the Minister of Social Services and Community Health.
 - (2) This Act applies notwithstanding any other Act or any regulation, bylaw or rule made thereunder.
 - (3) This Act binds the Crown.
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2. (1) No person, directly or indirectly, alone or with another, by himself or by the interposition of another, shall,
 - (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 guide dog.
 - (2) No person, directly or indirectly, alone or with another, by himself or by the interposition of another, shall,
 - (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 guide dog.

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

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

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

(3) Any person to whom an identification card is issued under subsection (1) shall, upon the request of the Minister or an officer of his Department designated by him in writing, surrender his identification card for amendment or cancellation.

4. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations prescribing qualifications for guide dogs.

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

(2) Every person who is in contravention of section 2 or of subsection (3) of section 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 summary conviction is liable to a fine not exceeding \$100.

6. This Act comes into force on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.