

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1494 Session of
1981

INTRODUCED BY SPITZ, ALDEN, MRKONIC, MORRIS, ZWIKL, PISTELLA,
GEIST, MILLER, NOYE, CIVERA, F. E. TAYLOR, WASS, BOWSER,
JOHNSON, WOGAN, FISCHER, BLAUM, GANNON, ARTY, NAHILL, PRATT,
VROON, HORGOS, SALVATORE AND TELEK, JUNE 3, 1981

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 3, 1981

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, providing a penalty for failure to yield the right-
3 of-way to certain blind persons.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 3549 of Title 75, act of November 25,
7 1970 (P.L.707, No.230), known as the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes, is amended to read:

9 § 3549. Blind pedestrians.

10 (a) General rule.--The driver of a vehicle shall yield the
11 right-of-way to any totally or partially blind pedestrian
12 carrying a clearly visible white cane or accompanied by a guide
13 dog and shall take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid
14 injuring or endangering the pedestrian and, if necessary, shall
15 stop the vehicle in order to prevent injury or danger to the
16 pedestrian.

17 (b) Effect of absence of cane or dog.--This section shall

1 not be construed to deprive a totally or partially blind
2 pedestrian not carrying a cane or not being guided by a dog of
3 the rights and privileges conferred by law upon pedestrians
4 crossing streets or highways, nor shall the failure of a totally
5 or partially blind pedestrian to carry a cane or to be guided by
6 a guide dog upon the streets, highways or sidewalks of this
7 Commonwealth be held to constitute contributory negligence in
8 and of itself.

9 (c) Penalty.--Notwithstanding any other provision of this
10 subchapter a person who violates the provisions of this section
11 is guilty of a summary offense. Upon evidence of a conviction
12 hereunder the Secretary of Transportation may suspend the
13 driving privileges of the person so convicted for a period of 30
14 days.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.