

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 640 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, YUDICHAK, ALLOWAY, RAFFERTY, COSTA, STEFANO, WARD AND LEACH, MARCH 23, 2015

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 23, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222),
 2 entitled, as amended, "An act prohibiting certain practices
 3 of discrimination because of race, color, religious creed,
 4 ancestry, age or national origin by employers, employment
 5 agencies, labor organizations and others as herein defined;
 6 creating the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission in the
 7 Governor's Office; defining its functions, powers and duties;
 8 providing for procedure and enforcement; providing for
 9 formulation of an educational program to prevent prejudice;
 10 providing for judicial review and enforcement and imposing
 11 penalties," further providing for right to freedom from
 12 discrimination in employment, housing and public
 13 accommodation.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. Section 3 of the act of October 27, 1955
 17 (P.L.744, No.222), known as the Pennsylvania Human Relations
 18 Act, amended December 20, 1991 (P.L.414, No.51), is amended to
 19 read:

20 Section 3. Right to Freedom from Discrimination in
 21 Employment, Housing and Public Accommodation.--

22 (a) The opportunity for an individual to obtain employment
 23 for which he is qualified, and to obtain all the accommodations,

1 advantages, facilities and privileges of any public
2 accommodation and of any housing accommodation and commercial
3 property without discrimination because of race, color, familial
4 status, religious creed, ancestry, handicap or disability, age,
5 sex, national origin, the use of a guide or support animal
6 because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the
7 user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or
8 guide animals is hereby recognized as and declared to be a civil
9 right which shall be enforceable as set forth in this act.

10 (b) All forms of public transportation shall permit a
11 therapy dog properly harnessed, accompanying a person with a
12 disability or an owner or handler of a therapy dog or a person
13 licensed to train therapy dogs, to aid and guide a disabled
14 person and to ride on all vehicles operated for transportation,
15 and no charge shall be made for the transportation of such dog.

16 (c) The following words and phrases shall have the meanings
17 given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly
18 indicates otherwise:

19 The term "recognized therapy dog training organization" means
20 any of the following:

21 (1) Pet Partners of Bellevue, Washington;

22 (2) Therapy Dogs Incorporated of Cheyenne, Wyoming;

23 (3) Therapy Dogs International of Flanders, New Jersey;

24 (4) Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs of Morris Plains, New
25 Jersey; or

26 (5) Comfort Caring Canines of Hatfield, Pennsylvania.

27 The term "therapy dog" means any dog that is trained to work
28 or perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons, including
29 those with special needs, autism, drug addiction, distress due
30 to emotional and physical abuse and clinical depression or

1 bipolar disease by a recognized therapy dog training
2 organization and is actually used for such purpose.
3 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.