

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 862 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, BREWSTER, WAUGH, COSTA, ERICKSON,
WASHINGTON, FONTANA, FERLO, BRUBAKER AND WOZNIAK,
APRIL 24, 2013

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 24, 2013

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, to ride on all vehicles operated for transportation and
15 no charge shall be made for the transportation of such dog.

16 (c) For purposes of this section, the term "therapy dog"
17 shall mean any dog that is certified and trained to work or
18 perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons including
19 those with special needs, autism, drug addiction, distress due
20 to emotional and physical abuse and clinical depression or
21 bipolar disease by a recognized therapy dog training center or
22 professional therapy dog trainer and is actually used for such
23 purpose.

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