

LEGISLATIVE BILL 83

Approved by the Governor March 4, 1975

Introduced by Goodrich, 20

AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to provide for full and equal access to housing accommodations by blind, visually handicapped, and physically disabled persons as prescribed; to amend section 20-129, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1974; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.  
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. It is the intent of the Legislature that blind persons, visually handicapped persons, and other physically disabled persons shall be entitled to full and equal access to all housing accommodations offered for rent, lease, or compensation in this state.

Sec. 2. As used in sections 1 to 4 of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, housing accommodations shall mean any real property which is used or occupied or is intended, arranged, or designed to be used or occupied as the home, residence, or sleeping place of one or more human beings. Housing accommodations shall not include any single family residence in which the owner lives and in which any room is rented, leased, or provided for compensation to persons other than the owner or primary tenant.

Sec. 3. Nothing in sections 1 to 4 of this act shall require any person who rents, leases, or provides housing accommodations for compensation to modify such person's property in any way to accommodate the special needs of any lessee.

Sec. 4. Every totally or partially blind person who has a dog guide or who obtains a dog guide shall have full and equal access to all housing accommodations with such dog guide as prescribed in sections 1 to 4 of this act. Such person shall not be required to pay extra compensation for such dog guide. Such person shall be liable for any damage done to such premises by such dog guide. Any person who rents, leases, or provides housing accommodations for compensation may demand or receive a reasonable dog guide deposit, not to exceed one-fourth of one month's periodic rent, from any totally or partially blind person who has or obtains a dog guide.

Sec. 5. That section 20-129, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1974, be amended to read as follows:

20-129. Any person, firm or corporation, or the agent of any person, firm or corporation who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public facilities enumerated in section 20-127 or otherwise interferes with the rights of a totally or partially blind or otherwise physically disabled person under section 20-127 or sections 1 to 4 of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than thirty days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 6. That original section 20-129, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1974, is repealed.

Sec. 7. Since an emergency exists, this act shall be in full force and take effect, from and after its passage and approval, according to law.