

2012 -- H 7445

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LC01137  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - EQUAL RIGHTS OF BLIND AND DEAF PERSONS  
TO PUBLIC FACILITIES

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Jacquard, Naughton, E Coderre, and Cimini

Date Introduced: February 09, 2012

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40-9.1-1.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-9.1 entitled "Equal  
2 Rights of Blind and Deaf Persons to Public Facilities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40-9.1-1.1. Definitions.** -- (a) "Guide dog" means a dog that has been or is being  
4 specially trained to aid a particular blind or visually impaired person.

5 (b) "Hearing dog" means a dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a  
6 particular deaf or hard-of-hearing person.

7 (c) "Housing accommodations" means any real property or portion thereof that is used or  
8 occupied, or intended, arranged or designed to be used or occupied, as the home, residence or  
9 sleeping place of one or more human beings, but does not include any single-family residence the  
10 occupants of which rent, lease or furnish for compensation to more than one room therein.

11 (d) "Personal assistance animal" means a dog that has been or is being trained as a guide  
12 dog, hearing dog or service dog.

13 (e) "Service dog" means a dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a  
14 particular disabled person with a disability other than sight or hearing.

15 (f) "Disabled" means a disability as defined in section 42-87-1.

16 (g) "Closed-captioning" means a transcript or dialog of the audio portion of a television  
17 program that is displayed on a television receiver screen when the user activates the feature.

18 (h) "Public area" means a part of a place of public accommodation that is open to the

1 general public.

2 (i) “Regular hours” means the hours of any day in which a place of public  
3 accommodation is open to members of the general public.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 40-9.1 of the General Laws entitled "Equal Rights of Blind and  
5 Deaf Persons to Public Facilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

6 **40-9.1-6. Closed-captioning activation required.** – (a) On request, a place of public  
7 accommodation shall keep closed-captioning activated on any closed-captioning television  
8 receiver that is in use during regular hours in any public area.

9 (b) This section does not require a place of public accommodation to make closed-  
10 captioning available in a public area at the place of public accommodation if:

11 (1) No television receiver of any kind is available in the public area; or

12 (2) The only public television receiver available in the public area is not a closed-  
13 captioning television receiver.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - EQUAL RIGHTS OF BLIND AND DEAF PERSONS  
TO PUBLIC FACILITIES

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1           This act would require a place of public accommodation upon request, to keep closed–  
2 captioning activated on a television used in public areas during regular hours, if the television is  
3 capable of such display.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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