



# LAWS OF ALASKA

1972

Source

SCSHB 249

Chapter No.

19

## AN ACT

Relating to rights of the blind and otherwise physically disabled; and providing for an effective date.

### BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

\* Section 1. AS 11.70.040 and AS 28.25.010 - 28.25.040 are repealed.

\* Sec. 2. AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

#### CHAPTER 6. RIGHTS OF BLIND AND OTHERWISE PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS.

Sec. 18.06.010. STATE POLICY. It is the policy of this state to encourage and enable the blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled to participate fully in the social and economic life of the state and to engage in remunerative employment.

Sec. 18.06.020. RIGHTS. (a) The blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled have the same right as the able-bodied to the full and free pedestrian use of the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, and other public places.

(b) The blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled are entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motor buses, streetcars, boats or any other public conveyances or modes of transportation, hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation, amusement or resort, and other places to which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons.

(c) Totally or partially blind persons shall have the right to be accompanied by a guide dog, especially trained for the purpose, in any of the places listed in (b) of this section without being required to pay an extra charge for the guide dog; however, the person with the guide dog shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by the dog.

Sec. 18.06.030. RIGHTS AS PEDESTRIANS. The driver of a motor vehicle approaching a totally or partially blind pedestrian who is carrying a cane predominantly white or metallic in color, with or without a red tip, or using a guide dog shall take all necessary precautions to avoid injury to the pedestrian, and a driver who fails to take all necessary precautions and causes injury to the pedestrian is liable in damages for the injury caused. A totally blind or partially blind pedestrian not carrying a cane as described in this section or using a guide dog in any of the places, accommodations or conveyances set out under sec. 20 of this chapter has all of the rights and privileges conferred by law upon other persons, and the failure of a totally or partially blind pedestrian to carry a cane as described in this section or to use a guide dog is not by itself evidence of contributory negligence.

Sec. 18.06.040. PENALTY FOR DENYING RIGHTS. A person who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public facilities set out in sec. 20 of this chapter or otherwise interferes with the rights of a totally or partially blind or otherwise disabled person is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 60 days, or by both.

Sec. 18.06.050. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter "totally blind" or "partially blind" means a person whose visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.

\* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without approval.