

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Draft of H.P. 145, L.D. 186)
(New Title)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1314

H.P. 971 House of Representatives, April 22, 1987
Reported by Representative PRIEST from the Committee on
Legal Affairs and printed under Joint Rule 2.
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Original bill sponsored by Representative MITCHELL of
Freeport. Cosponsored by Representative CARROLL of Gray.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 **AN ACT Concerning Housing for**
2 **Hearing Ear Dogs and Seeing Eye Dogs.**
3

4 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
5 follows:

6 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1312, sub-§§5 and 6 are enacted**
7 **to read:**

8 5. Housing accommodations; persons with guide
9 dogs. Every blind or visually handicapped individual
10 who has a sight-assistance animal, such as a guide
11 dog, is entitled to full and equal access to all
12 housing accommodations provided for in this section.
13 Blind or visually impaired individuals may not be re-
14 quired to pay extra compensation to keep

1 sight-assistance animals. A blind or visually im-
2 paired person shall be liable for any damages done to
3 the premises by the animal.

4 6. Housing accommodations; definitions. "Hous-
5 ing accommodations," as used in this section, means
6 any real property, or portion of real property, which
7 is used or occupied, or is intended, arranged or de-
8 signed to be used or occupied, as the home, residence
9 or sleeping place of one or more human beings, in-
10 cluding, but not limited to, public housing projects
11 and all forms of publicly assisted housing, single
12 and multifamily rental and sale units, lodging
13 places, condominiums and cooperative apartments.
14 "Housing accommodations" does not include:

15 A. The rental of a housing accommodation in a
16 building which contains housing accommodations
17 for not more than 2 families living independently
18 of each other, if the owner or members of the
19 owner's family reside in that housing accommoda-
20 tion; or

21 B. The rental of a room or rooms in a housing
22 accommodation, if the rental is by the occupant
23 of the housing accommodation or by the owner of
24 the housing accommodation and the owner or mem-
25 bers of the owner's family reside in that housing
26 accommodation.

27 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3612, sub-§§5 and 6 are enacted
28 to read:

29 5. Housing accommodations; persons with
30 hearing-assistance animals. Every hearing impaired
31 individual who has a hearing-assistance animal is en-
32 titled to full and equal access to all housing accom-
33 modations provided for in this section. Hearing im-
34 paired individuals may not be required to pay extra
35 compensation to keep hearing-assistance animals. A
36 hearing impaired person shall be liable for any dam-
37 ages done to the premises by the animal.

38 6. Housing accommodations; definitions. "Hous-
39 ing accommodations," as used in this section, means
40 any real property, or portion of real property, which
41 is used or occupied, or is intended, arranged or de-

1 signed to be used or occupied, as the home, residence
2 or sleeping place of one or more human beings, in-
3 cluding, but not limited to, public housing projects
4 and all forms of publicly assisted housing, single
5 and multifamily rental and sale units, lodging
6 places, condominiums and cooperative apartments.
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9 building which contains housing accommodations
10 for not more than 2 families living independently
11 of each other, if the owner or members of the
12 owner's family reside in that housing accommoda-
13 tion; or

14 B. The rental of a room or rooms in a housing
15 accommodation, if the rental is by the occupant
16 of the housing accommodation or by the owner of
17 the housing accommodation and the owner or mem-
18 bers of the owner's family reside in that housing
19 accommodation.

20 STATEMENT OF FACT

21 This new draft adds a new section to the bill to
22 extend the same protections the bill grants to people
23 with hearing-assistance animals to persons with
24 sight-assistance animals, such as guide dogs. The
25 language of both the bill and this new draft refers
26 to animals in general, rather than restricting to on-
27 ly dogs. This will allow the law to accommodate ad-
28 vances in technology as they occur. For example,
29 trained monkeys are often used as assistance animals
30 for paraplegics.

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