

CHAPTER 256C

BLIND PERSONS

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256C.01 DECLARATION OF 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. It is further the policy of this state that the blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled shall be employed by the state, its political subdivisions, the public schools, and in all other employment supported in whole or in part by public funds on the same terms and conditions as the able-bodied, unless it is shown that the particular disability prevents the performance of the work involved.

[1969 c 900 s 1]

256C.02 PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS. The blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled have the same right as the able-bodied to the full and free use of the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, and other public places; and are entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motor buses, 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.

Every totally or partially blind person shall have the right to be accompanied by a guide dog in any of the places listed in section 327.095; provided that he shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by such dog.

[1969 c 900 s 2]

256C.03 BLIND PEDESTRIANS; CIVIL LIABILITY. The driver of a 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 reasonable precautions to avoid injury to such blind pedestrian.

[1969 c 900 s 3]

256C.04 PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR. Each year, the governor may take suitable public notice of October 15 as white cane safety day. He may issue a proclamation in which:

- (a) he comments upon the significance of the white cane;
- (b) he calls upon the citizens of the state to observe the provisions of the white cane law and to take precautions necessary to the safety of the disabled;
- (c) he reminds the citizens of the state of the policies with respect to the disabled herein declared and urges the citizens to cooperate in giving effect to them;
- (d) he emphasizes the need of the citizens to be aware of the presence of disabled persons in the community and to keep safe and functional for the disabled the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, other public places, places of public accommodation, amusement and resort, and other places to which the public is invited, and to offer assistance to disabled persons upon appropriate occasions.

[1969 c 900 s 4]

256C.05 CRIMINAL PENALTY. Any person, 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 256C.02 or otherwise interferes with the rights of

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a totally or partially blind or otherwise disabled person under section 256C.02 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1969 c 900 s 5]

256C.06 CITATION. Sections 256C.01 to 256C.06 may be cited the "Minnesota White Cane Law".

[1969 c 900 s 6]