

CHAPTER 649

(House Bill 1211)

AN ACT concerning

Blind, Visually Handicapped, Deaf or Hearing Impaired Individuals
- Rights - Penalties for Violations

FOR the purpose of ~~providing that if a violation of certain provisions of law relating to the rights of blind individuals results in a conviction, this conviction shall be a basis of a civil cause of action against the person convicted, altering a certain penalty for certain violators convicted of a certain misdemeanor, and requiring that the court shall order certain persons to pay reasonable attorney's fees under certain circumstances. increasing the maximum fine on conviction of a certain misdemeanor involving the denial or interference with admittance or enjoyment of certain public facilities by certain persons.~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 30 - Deaf, Mute or Blind
Section 33(g)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1976 Replacement Volume and 1982 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 30 - Deaf, Mute or Blind

33.

(g) ~~(1)~~ Any person or persons, firm, or corporation, or the agent of any person or persons, firm, or corporation, who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public facilities enumerated in this section, or otherwise interferes with the rights of a blind or visually handicapped person or a deaf or hearing impaired person under this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject upon conviction to a fine not exceeding [fifty dollars] ~~\$1,000~~ \$500 for each offense.

~~(2) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION RESULTING IN A CONVICTION SHALL BE THE BASIS OF A CIVIL CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST THE PERSON CONVICTED OF SUCH VIOLATION.~~

~~(3) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTY OR PAYMENT, THE COURT SHALL ORDER ANY PERSON CONVICTED OF A MISDEMEANOR OR FOUND CIVILLY LIABLE UNDER THIS SECTION TO PAY REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES OF THE INJURED PARTY.~~