

WHEREAS, A blind or visually handicapped pedestrian using a guide dog and not carrying a cane predominately white or metallic in color (with or without a red tip), or a blind or visually handicapped pedestrian using a guide dog in any of the places, accommodations, or conveyances listed has all the rights and privileges conferred by law upon any other person; and

WHEREAS, Every blind or visually handicapped person has the right to be accompanied by a guide dog, especially trained for the purpose, in any of the places listed without being required to pay an extra charge for the guide dog; however, the person is liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by the person's dog; and

WHEREAS, Any person or persons, firm, or corporation, who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the enumerated public facilities or otherwise interferes with the rights of a blind or visually handicapped person may be charged and convicted of a criminal offense; and

WHEREAS, The law provides that each year the Governor take suitable public notice of October 15 as White Cane Safety Day and that the citizens of the State are urged to observe the provisions of the White Cane Law and to take precautions necessary to the safety of the visually handicapped; and

WHEREAS, Citizens are asked to be aware of the presence of visually handicapped persons in the community and to keep safe and functional for the blind or visually handicapped the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public accommodations, public buildings, public facilities, other public places, amusement and resort, and other places to which the public is invited and to offer assistance to the blind or visually handicapped person upon appropriate occasions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to appoint a task force to study the application, enforcement, and need to revise the "White Cane Law"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the task force consist of 9 members including:

(1) 2 members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) 2 members of the Senate of Maryland appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) -5- 3 blind or visually handicapped persons, appointed by the Governor; ~~and-be-it-further~~

(4) 1 deaf or hearing impaired person appointed by the Governor;