

Approved April 13, 1999.

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**CHAPTER 60**

**(House Bill 59)**

AN ACT concerning

**Human Relations Commission - Disability**

FOR the purpose of substituting the word "disability" for "handicap", "physical or mental handicap", and certain other terms in certain provisions of law regarding human relations and discrimination; making certain technical changes; and generally relating to the Human Relations Commission and discrimination based on disability.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 49B - Human Relations Commission

Section ~~5(a) and (b)~~ 5(a), (b), and (d)(2)(i), 8(a), 14, 15(g), 16, 19(a), ~~20(t)~~ 20(k)  
and (t), 21(c), 22(a) and (b)(1), 23, and 37(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article 49B - Human Relations Commission**

5.

(a) It is unlawful for an owner or operator of a place of public accommodation or an agent or employee of the owner or operator, because of the race, creed, sex, age, color, national origin, marital status, or [physical or mental handicap,] DISABILITY of any person, to refuse, withhold from, or deny to such person any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of such place of public accommodation.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed or interpreted to prohibit the proprietor of any establishment, or the employees of the establishment, from the right to deny service to any person for failure to conform to the usual and regular requirements, standards and regulations for the establishment so long as the denial is not based upon discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, marital status, or [physical or mental handicap] DISABILITY.

(d) (2) (i) When structural changes, modifications, or the provision of special equipment is necessary to accommodate [a handicapped person] AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY, the accommodation shall be "reasonable".