

By: Representative Horne

To: Public Health and  
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 494  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-6-155, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THE SAME RIGHTS OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO TRAINERS OF SUPPORT  
3 DOGS AS THOSE PROVIDED TO DISABLED PERSONS WITH SUPPORT DOGS; AND  
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 43-6-155, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 43-6-155. (1) Any blind person, mobility impaired person or  
9 hearing impaired person who uses a dog specifically trained as a  
10 guide, leader, listener or for any other assistance necessary to  
11 assist such blind, mobility impaired or hearing impaired person in  
12 day-to-day activities shall be entitled to the full and equal  
13 accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of all  
14 public conveyances, hotels, lodging places, businesses open to the  
15 public for the sale of any goods or services and all places of  
16 public accommodation, amusement, or resort and other places to  
17 which the general public is invited, and may take such dog into  
18 such conveyances and places, subject only to the conditions and  
19 limitations applicable to all persons not so accompanied, except  
20 that:

21 (a) The dog shall not occupy a seat in any public  
22 conveyance.

23 (b) The dog shall be upon a leash while using the  
24 facilities of a common carrier.

25 (2) Trainers of support dogs shall have the same rights of  
26 accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges with support  
27 dogs-in-training as those provided to blind, mobility impaired

28 and hearing impaired persons with support dogs under this section.

29       (3) No person shall deprive a blind, mobility impaired or  
30 hearing impaired person support or a support dog trainer of any of  
31 the advantages, facilities or privileges provided in this section,  
32 nor charge such blind, mobility impaired or hearing impaired  
33 person or support dog trainer a fee or charge for the use of the  
34 dog.

35       SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
36 and after July 1, 1999.