

Connecticut

## SUMMARY

The following statutes comprise Connecticut's pertinent service animal laws. These statutes provide Class C misdemeanor penalties for discriminating against a disabled individual accompanied by a service animal. These laws also provide penalties for interfering with, injuring, or killing a service animal. Though Connecticut law requires the wearing of an orange collar and leash, such provisions are incongruent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and are likely unenforceable.

Date last checked: December, 2020

### **Connecticut General Statutes Annotated. Title 13b. Transportation. Chapter 244C. Transportation Network Company Vehicles**

#### **§ 13b-119. Transportation network company driver requirements. Adoption of policies re drugs and alcohol and illness and fatigue. Operation as transportation network company driver without authority; penalty. Certification re condition of transportation network company vehicle**

(f) A transportation network company driver shall: (1) Comply with all applicable laws regarding nondiscrimination against transportation network company riders or potential transportation network company riders on the basis of age, color, creed, destination, intellectual or physical disability, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity; (2) comply with all applicable laws relating to the accommodation of service animals and accommodate service animals without imposing additional charges for such accommodation; (3) comply with the policies adopted by the transportation network company pursuant to subsection (c) of section 13b-118 and subsections (d) and (e) of this section; (4) not impose additional charges for providing prearranged rides to persons with physical disabilities because of such disabilities; and (5) not solicit or accept a request for transportation unless the request is accepted through the transportation network company's digital network.

#### Credits

(2017, P.A. 17-140, § 4, eff. Jan. 1, 2018; 2019, P.A. 19-161, § 3, eff. Oct. 1, 2019.)

#### Footnotes

1 15 U.S.C.A. § 1681 et seq.

## **Title 46A. Human Rights. Chapter 814B. Mobility Impaired Persons.**

### **§ 46a-42. "Mobility impaired persons" defined**

For purposes of sections 22-345, 46a-44 and 46a-64: "Mobility impaired person" means any person, regardless of age, who is subject to a physiological defect or deficiency regardless of its cause, nature or extent that renders the person unable to move about without the aid of crutches, a wheelchair or any other form of support, or that limits the person's functional ability to ambulate, climb, descend, sit or rise or to perform any related function.

CREDIT(S)

(1958 Rev., § 22-345a; 1985, P.A. 85-289, § 3; 1988, P.A. 88-364, § 31, eff. June 8, 1988; 1995, P.A. 95-33, § 1.)

### **§ 46a-44. Access of guide and assistance dogs to modes of public transportation and in places of public accommodation**

(a) Any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or any person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or an assistance dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person may travel on a train or on any other mode of public transportation, and may enter any other place of public accommodation which caters or offers its services or facilities or goods to the general public, including but not limited to, any public building, inn, restaurant, hotel, motel, tourist cabin, place of amusement, resort or any facility of any such public accommodation, accompanied by such person's guide dog or assistance dog, and such person may keep such dog with him or her at all times in any such public accommodation or facility thereof at no extra charge, provided such dog shall be in the direct custody of such person and shall be wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar.

(b) Any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or any person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or an assistance dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person shall be entitled to visit any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement or a dwelling as a guest of a lawful occupant thereof, accompanied by such person's guide dog or assistance dog, and such person may keep such dog with him or her at all times in such public accommodation, resort, amusement or dwelling at no extra charge, provided such dog shall be in the direct custody of such person and shall be wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar. No such blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or person training a dog as a guide dog or an assistance dog shall be charged any fee not applicable alike to all guests, provided the owner of such dog shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by such dog. For the purposes of this subsection, (1) a "place of public accommodation, resort or amusement" means any

establishment which caters or offers its services or facilities or goods to the general public, including, but not limited to, any commercial building lot, on which it is intended that a commercial property or building will be constructed or offered for sale or rent, and

(2) "dwelling" means any building, structure, mobile manufactured home park or portion thereof which is occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more families, and any vacant land which is offered for sale or lease for the construction or location thereon of any such building, structure, mobile manufactured home park or portion thereof, provided the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to (A) the rental of a room or rooms in a single-family dwelling unit, if the owner actually maintains and occupies part of such living quarters as the owner's residence or (B) a unit in a dwelling containing living quarters occupied or intended to be occupied by no more than two families living independently of each other, if the owner actually maintains and occupies the other such living quarters as the owner's residence.

(c) Any person who intentionally interferes with a blind, deaf or mobility impaired person's use of a guide dog or an assistance dog, including, but not limited to, any action intended to harass or annoy the blind, deaf or mobility impaired person, the person training a dog as a guide dog or assistance dog or the guide dog or assistance dog, or who denies the rights afforded to a blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or person training a dog as a guide dog or an assistance dog under subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be guilty of a class C misdemeanor, provided such blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or person training a dog as a guide dog or an assistance dog complies with the applicable provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of this section.

(d) For the purposes of this section, "guide dog" or "assistance dog" includes a dog being trained as a guide dog or assistance dog and "person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or an assistance dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person" means a person who is employed by and authorized to engage in designated training activities by a guide dog organization or assistance dog organization that complies with the criteria for membership in a professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools and who carries photographic identification indicating such employment and authorization, or a person who volunteers for a guide dog organization or assistance dog organization that authorizes such volunteers to raise dogs to become guide dogs or assistance dogs and causes the identification of such dog with (1) identification tags, (2) ear tattoos, (3) identifying bandanas on puppies, (4) identifying coats on adult dogs, or (5) leashes and collars.

#### Credits

(1958 Rev., § 22-346a; 1963, P.A. 641, § 1; 1973, P.A. 73-279, § 3; 1976, P.A. 76-49, § 2; 1985, P.A. 85-289, § 6; 1989, P.A. 89-21, § 1; 1992, P.A. 92-257, § 5; 1997, P.A. 97-141, § 1; 2004, P.A. 04-71, § 1, eff. Oct. 1, 2005; 2017, P.A. 17-102, § 1.)

**Title 46A. Human Rights. Chapter 814C. Human Rights and Opportunities. Part II. Discriminatory Practices.**

**§ 46a-64. Discriminatory public accommodations practices prohibited. Penalty**

(a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section: (1) To deny any person within the jurisdiction of this state full and equal accommodations in any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income, intellectual disability, mental disability, physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness or deafness, or status as a veteran, of the applicant, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons; (2) to discriminate, segregate or separate on account of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income, intellectual disability, mental disability, learning disability, physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness or deafness, or status as a veteran; (3) for a place of public accommodation, resort or amusement to restrict or limit the right of a mother to breast-feed her child; (4) for a place of public accommodation, resort or amusement to fail or refuse to post a notice, in a conspicuous place, that any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person, accompanied by his guide dog wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar, may enter such premises or facilities; or (5) to deny any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or any person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person, accompanied by his guide dog or assistance dog, full and equal access to any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement. Any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or any person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person may keep his guide dog or assistance dog with him at all times in such place of public accommodation, resort or amusement at no extra charge, provided the dog wears a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar and is in the direct custody of such person. The blind, deaf or mobility impaired person or person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by his dog. For purposes of this subdivision, "guide dog" or "assistance dog" includes a dog being trained as a guide dog or assistance dog and "person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person" means a person who is employed by and authorized to engage in designated training activities by a guide dog organization or assistance dog organization that complies with the criteria for membership in a professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools and who carries photographic identification indicating such employment and authorization.

(b) (1) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of sex discrimination shall not apply to (A) the rental of sleeping accommodations provided by associations and organizations which rent all such sleeping accommodations on a temporary or permanent basis for the exclusive use of persons of the same sex or (B) separate bathrooms or locker rooms based on sex. (2) The provisions of this section with respect

to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of age shall not apply to minors or to special discount or other public or private programs to assist persons sixty years of age and older. (3) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of physical disability shall not require any person to modify his property in any way or provide a higher degree of care for a physically disabled person, including, but not limited to blind or deaf persons, than for a person not physically disabled. (4) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of creed shall not apply to the practice of granting preference in admission of residents into a nursing home as defined in section 19a-490, if (A) the nursing home is owned, operated by or affiliated with a religious organization, exempt from taxation for federal income tax purposes and (B) the class of persons granted preference in admission is consistent with the religious mission of the nursing home. (5) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of lawful source of income shall not prohibit the denial of full and equal accommodations solely on the basis of insufficient income.

(c) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

#### Credits

(1949 Rev., § 8375; 1949, Supp. § 691a; 1953, Supp. § 2464c; 1955, Supp. § 3267d; 1958 Rev., § 53-35; 1959, P.A. 113; 1961, P.A. 472, §§ 1, 2; 1963, P.A. 594; 1965, Feb.Sp.Sess., P.A. 141; 1967, P.A. 177, § 1; 1972, P.A. 186, § 15; 1973, P.A. 73-119; 1973, P.A. 73-279, § 6; 1974, P.A. 74-205; 1975, P.A. 75-323; 1976, P.A. 76-49, § 3; 1977, P.A. 77-604, § 37, eff. July 6, 1977; 1978, P.A. 78-148, § 12; 1979, P.A. 79-186; 1980, P.A. 80-422, § 12; 1980, P.A. 80-483, § 135, eff. June 6, 1980; 1985, P.A. 85-289, § 7; 1985, P.A. 85-512, § 5; 1988, P.A. 88-114; 1988, P.A. 88-288; 1989, P.A. 89-21, § 2; 1989, P.A. 89-288, § 2; 1990, P.A. 90-230, § 63, eff. June 8, 1990; 1990, P.A. 90-246, § 3; 1990, P.A. 90-330, § 4, eff. July 1, 1990; 1994, P.A. 94-238, § 4, eff. July 1, 1994; 1997, P.A. 97-141, § 2; 1997, P.A. 97-210, § 1; 2007, P.A. 07-217, § 167, eff. July 12, 2007; 2011, P.A. 11-55, § 25; 2011, P.A. 11-129, § 20; 2012, P.A. 12-80, § 94; 2017, P.A. 17-127, § 5.)

## **Title 22. Agriculture. Domestic Animals. Chapter 435. Dogs and Other Companion Animals. Kennels and Pet Shops**

### **§ 22-345. License and tag for guide dogs for blind, deaf or mobility impaired persons**

Any blind, deaf or mobility impaired person who is the owner or keeper of a dog which has been trained and educated to guide and assist such person in traveling upon the public streets or highways or otherwise shall receive a license and tag for such dog from the town clerk of the town where such dog is owned or kept. Such license and tag shall

be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, and no fee shall be required of the owner or keeper of any such dog. When any such dog has not been previously licensed by the town clerk to whom application is being made, such town clerk shall not license such dog or issue to the owner a license and tag unless written evidence is exhibited to such clerk that the dog is trained and educated and intended in fact to perform such guide service for such applicant. Any person who has a dog placed with such person temporarily, including for breeding purposes, by a nonprofit organization established for the purpose of training or educating guide dogs to so assist blind, deaf or mobility impaired persons shall receive a license and tag for such dog from the town clerk of the town where such dog is kept. Such license and tag shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of section 22-340, and no fee shall be required for such license and tag, provided such person presents written evidence that such dog was placed with such person by such organization. As used in this section and section 46a-44, "deaf person" means a person who cannot readily understand spoken language through hearing alone and who may also have a speech defect which renders such person's speech unintelligible to most people with normal hearing.

CREDIT(S)

(1949 Rev., § 3391; 1953 Supp. §§ 1387c, 1829d; 1963, P.A. 613, § 16; 1976, P.A. 76-49, § 1; 1985, P.A. 85-289, § 5; 1989, P.A. 89-161, § 5; 1993, P.A. 93-435, § 50, eff. June 28, 1993; 2001, P.A. 01-62, § 6.)

## **Title 22. Agriculture. Domestic Animals. Chapter 435. Dogs and Other Companion Animals. Kennels and Pet Shops**

### **§ 22-364b. Control of dogs in proximity to guide dogs**

The owner or keeper of a dog shall restrain and control such dog on a leash when such dog is not on the property of its owner or keeper and is in proximity to a blind, deaf or mobility impaired person accompanied by his guide dog, provided the guide dog is in the direct custody of such blind, deaf or mobility impaired person, is wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar which makes it readily-identifiable as a guide dog and is licensed in accordance with section 22-345. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall have committed an infraction. If an owner or keeper of a dog violates the provisions of this section and, as a result of such violation, such dog attacks and injures the guide dog, such owner or keeper shall be liable, as provided in section 22-357, for any damage done to such guide dog, and such liability shall include liability for any costs incurred by such blind, deaf or mobility-impaired person for the veterinary care, rehabilitation or replacement of the injured guide dog and for reasonable attorney's fees.

CREDIT(S)

(1996, P.A. 96-243, § 9, eff. June 6, 1996; 1998, P.A. 98-61,

**Title 14. Motor Vehicles. Use of the Highway by Vehicles. Gasoline. Chapter 249.  
Traffic Control and Highway Safety. Part I. Traffic Control**

**§ 14-300. Crosswalks. Pedestrian-control signals. Regulation of pedestrians and motor vehicles at crosswalks. Pedestrians who are blind or have guide dogs**

(d) The operator of a motor vehicle who approaches or comes into the immediate vicinity of a pedestrian who is blind, as defined in subsection (a) of section 1-1f, carrying a white cane or a white cane tipped with red, or a pedestrian being guided by a guide dog, shall reduce speed or stop, if necessary, to yield the right-of-way to such pedestrian. No person, except one who is blind, shall carry or use on any street or highway, or in any other public place, a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white, tipped with red.

(e) Any crosswalk designated by a traffic authority on or after October 1, 2010, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be required by such authority to have markings, signage, or any control signals deemed necessary by such authority to provide sufficient time for the safe crossing of pedestrians.

(f) The operator of any motor vehicle who violates this section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

(g) In any civil action arising under subsection (c) or (d) of this section or sections 14-300b to 14-300d, inclusive, the doctrine of negligence per se shall not apply.

Credits

(1949 Rev., § 2519; 1955, Supp. § 1403d; 1967, P.A. 639; 1978, P.A. 78-309, § 2; 1994, P.A. 94-189, § 33, eff. July 1, 1994; 2000, P.A. 00-196, § 13; 2007, P.A. 07-167, § 26, eff. July 1, 2007; 2008, P.A. 08-150, § 32; 2010, P.A. 10-159, § 9; 2012, P.A. 12-132, § 30, eff. July 1, 2012; 2016, P.A. 16-54, § 1.)

**Connecticut General Statutes Annotated. Title 22.  
Agriculture. Domestic Animals. Chapter 435. Dogs and  
Other Companion Animals. Kennels and Pet Shops. § 22-  
364b. Control of dogs in proximity to guide dogs**

- **Primary Citation:** C. G. S. A. § 22-364b

**Summary:** This Connecticut law provides that the owner or keeper of a dog shall restrain and control such dog on a leash when such dog is not on the property of its owner or keeper and is in proximity to a blind, deaf or mobility impaired person accompanied by his or her guide dog. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall have committed an infraction. If an owner or keeper of a dog violates the provisions of this section and, as a result of such violation, such dog attacks and injures the guide dog, such owner or keeper shall be liable for any damage done to such guide dog, including veterinary care, replacement of the dog, and attorney fees.

The owner or keeper of a dog shall restrain and control such dog on a leash when such dog is not on the property of its owner or keeper and is in proximity to a blind, deaf or mobility impaired person accompanied by his guide dog, provided the guide dog is in the direct custody of such blind, deaf or mobility impaired person, is wearing a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar which makes it readily-identifiable as a guide dog and is licensed in accordance with section 22-345. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall have committed an infraction. If an owner or keeper of a dog violates the provisions of this section and, as a result of such violation, such dog attacks and injures the guide dog, such owner or keeper shall be liable, as provided in section 22-357, for any damage done to such guide dog, and such liability shall include liability for any costs incurred by such blind, deaf or mobility-impaired person for the veterinary care, rehabilitation or replacement of the injured guide dog and for reasonable attorney's fees.

CREDIT(S)

(1996, P.A. 96-243, § 9, eff. June 6, 1996; 1998, P.A. 98-61, § 1.)