

ASSEMBLY, No. 1125

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman MURPHY

1 AN ACT concerning guide dog instructors and amending P.L.1977,  
2 c.456 and P.L.1939, c.274.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. Section 6 of P.L.1977, c.456 (10:5-29.4) is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 6. A blind person accompanied by a guide dog, or a guide dog  
10 instructor engaged in instructing a guide dog, shall have the  
11 right-of-way over vehicles while crossing a highway or any  
12 intersection thereof, as provided in section 1 of P.L.1939, c.274 (C.  
13 39:4-37.1).  
14 (cf: P.L.1977, c.456, s.6)

15  
16 2. Section 1 of P.L.1939, c.274 (C.39:4-37.1) is amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 1. Any blind person using as a guide a walking cane, predominantly  
19 white or metallic in color or any blind person using as a guide a  
20 seeing-eye dog or other dog trained as a guide for the blind, equipped  
21 with a rigid "U" -shaped harness such as customarily used on dog  
22 guides or any guide dog instructor engaged in instructing a guide dog  
23 shall have the right-of-way in crossing any highway or any intersection  
24 thereof, and all drivers of vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to such  
25 blind person or guide dog instructor engaged in instructing a guide  
26 dog although traffic on said highway or intersection thereof is  
27 controlled by traffic signals, anything in the motor vehicle and traffic  
28 laws of this State to the contrary notwithstanding. The failure of a  
29 blind person or guide dog instructor to comply with the provisions of  
30 this act shall not give rise to a conclusive presumption of contributory  
31 negligence by such person. The provisions of this section shall not

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 apply where traffic is specially directed by a traffic or police officer.  
2 (cf: P.L.1971, c. 81 s.1)

3

4 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

8

9

10 This bill would enable guide dog instructors engaged in instructing  
11 guide dogs to exercise the same right-of-way privileges as are now  
12 accorded to blind persons accompanied by guide dogs. Currently, a  
13 blind person with a guide dog has the right-of-way over vehicles while  
14 crossing a highway or at an intersection. Those who train and test the  
15 guide dogs at times need to enter a street against the red light to  
16 determine the effectiveness of their instruction.

17

18

19

20

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
Permits guide dog instructors right-of-way on public roads.