

House Bill 3160

Sponsored by Representatives DOHERTY, PILUSO

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Permits persons who have limited vision to carry and use white canes on highways and other public places. Defines "limited vision."

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the use of white canes; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 811.035, 814.110 and
3 814.120.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 814.110 is amended to read:

6 814.110. (1) *[This section establishes rights for pedestrians who are blind or blind and deaf. The*
7 *rights established by this section are enforced by ORS 811.035 and 814.120.]* The following definitions
8 apply to this section and to ORS 811.035 and 814.120:

9 *[(a) "Dog guide" means a dog that is wearing a dog guide harness and is trained to lead or guide*
10 *a person who is blind.]*

11 *[(b) (a) ["Person who is] "Blind" means [a person who has 20/200 vision or less] **visual acuity***
12 **that does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses, or having** a visual field
13 of 20 degrees or less.

14 **(b) "Dog guide" means a dog that is wearing a dog guide harness and is trained to lead**
15 **or guide a person who is blind.**

16 **(c) "Limited vision" means visual acuity that does not exceed 20/70 and is no worse than**
17 **20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses.**

18 *[(c) (d) "White cane" means a cane or walking stick that is white in color or white with a red*
19 *tip.*

20 (2) This section and ORS 811.035 and 814.120 grant and enforce the following rights for pedes-
21 trians who are blind or blind and deaf:

22 (a) A **person who has limited vision and a person** who is blind or blind and deaf may carry
23 and use a white cane on the highways and other public places of this state for the purposes of
24 identification and mobility.

25 (b) *[Any]* **A person who has limited vision and a person** who is blind and deaf may use a white
26 cane marked by a six-inch-wide chartreuse colored strip at the tip end.

27 (3) A pedestrian **who has limited vision and a pedestrian** who is blind or blind and deaf and
28 who is not carrying a white cane or not accompanied by a dog guide has all the rights and privileges
29 granted by law to all pedestrians.

30 **SECTION 2.** ORS 814.120 is amended to read:

31 814.120. (1) A person commits the offense of unlawful use of a white cane if the person uses or

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 carries a white cane on the highways or any other public place of this state and the person is **not**
2 **a person who has limited vision or is not a person who is blind or a person who is blind and**
3 **deaf.**

4 (2) This section is subject to the provisions and definitions relating to the rights of pedestrians
5 **who have limited vision or pedestrians** who are blind or blind and deaf under ORS 814.110.

6 (3) The offense described in this section, unlawful use of a white cane, is a Class D traffic vio-
7 lation.

8 **SECTION 3.** ORS 811.035 is amended to read:

9 811.035. (1) The driver of a vehicle commits the offense of failure to stop and remain stopped for
10 a **pedestrian who has limited vision or a pedestrian who is blind** if the driver violates any of the
11 following:

12 (a) A driver approaching a pedestrian who **has limited vision or a pedestrian who** is blind or
13 blind and deaf, who is carrying a white cane or accompanied by a dog guide, and who is crossing
14 or about to cross a roadway, shall stop and remain stopped until the pedestrian has crossed the
15 roadway.

16 (b) Where the movement of vehicular traffic is regulated by traffic control devices, a driver ap-
17 proaching a pedestrian who **has limited vision or a pedestrian who** is blind or blind and deaf shall
18 stop and remain stopped until the pedestrian has vacated the roadway if the pedestrian has entered
19 the roadway and is carrying a white cane or is accompanied by a dog guide. This paragraph applies
20 notwithstanding any other provisions of the vehicle code relating to traffic control devices.

21 (2) This section is subject to the provisions and definitions relating to the rights of pedestrians
22 who **have limited vision or pedestrians who** are blind or blind and deaf under ORS 814.110.

23 (3) For the purposes of this section, a pedestrian is crossing the roadway when any part or ex-
24 tension of the pedestrian, including but not limited to any part of the pedestrian's body, wheelchair,
25 cane, crutch, bicycle or leashed animal, moves onto the roadway with the intent to proceed.

26 (4) The offense described in this section, failure to stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian who
27 **has limited vision or a pedestrian who** is blind, is a Class B traffic violation.

28 **SECTION 4. The amendments to ORS 811.035, 814.110 and 814.120 by sections 1 to 3 of this**
29 **2017 Act apply to conduct occurring on or after the effective date of this 2017 Act.**