

**Bullock Access**  
Accessibility Products & Services  
100E Pitkin Street East Hartford, CT 06108  
[www.BullockAccess.com](http://www.BullockAccess.com)

REG #522521  
REG #628592

ELV R-5 #425004  
ELV R-5 #476989

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY LETTER**

February 23, 2016

**S.B. No. 191 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INSTALLERS OF RESIDENTIAL STAIR LIFTS**

**Testimony of:** Clifford Bullock Owner/President, Bullock Access

Distinguished members of the committee,

My name is Clifford Bullock, owner/president of The Bullock Company, Inc. DBA Bullock Access. We sell, install and service accessibility equipment such as **stair lifts**, vertical platform wheelchair lifts, overhead patient lifts, ramps and barrier-free showers. Our showroom is located at 100 Pitkin Street in East Hartford, CT. I am very much **against** allowing Home Improvement Contractors to install stair lifts.

I have been a registered Home Improvement Contractor since the 1980's, transitioned my business into the accessibility market by modifying homes, learning the handicap accessibility codes and equipment. In 1993, I studied and passed the R5 exam required by the State of CT. I was the 4<sup>th</sup> person to achieve this license. My son joined the company, studied under me to learn the business for several years before he was approved by the Elevator Board to take an exam to obtain the Journeyman R6 license. After additional job training, seminars, etc. he was then able to take and passed the R5 exam.

Stair lifts fall under ASME and ANSI code restrictions:

ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) are code requirements that a manufacturer must follow for the design and manufacture of a stair lift.

ANSI (American National Standards Institute) are code requirements that involve the location and application of a stair lift.

These codes include, but are limited to running clearances, weight capacities, speeds, headroom clearance, incline angles, and obstruction sensors. These are all designed for rider safety and safety of others around the lift.

Our company services all brands of stair lifts, whether we installed them or not. This allowed us to see many improper and unsafe installations. Examples were lifts that did not go all the way to the top landing, lifts that started on the first step instead of the first floor, and rails that were improperly attached to the stairs. We also found the elimination of safety components such as mechanical end stops which keep the carriage from traveling off the end of the rail, over speed

OFFICE (860) 870-7444 SHOWROOM (860) 904-6550  
[BullockCompany@Comcast.net](mailto:BullockCompany@Comcast.net) or [Cliff@BullockAccess.com](mailto:Cliff@BullockAccess.com)

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governors disabled, obstruction sensors jumped out, and swivel seat sensors deactivated. These were found because an untrained person improperly installed or repaired it.

Our company sells four (4) brands of stair lifts. We tailor the lift to the client's needs. Part of our evaluation for a prospective customer, besides measuring the stairs for a proper installation, is to evaluate the user. If they have a special need, are frail, have dementia, or just feel unsafe on the stairs, these things are taken into consideration. A proper evaluation comes with experience, experience that the average home improvement contractor does not have.

To be a home improvement contractor you simply need to fill out an application and pay a \$220.00 fee. No experience or education required! \$100.00 of the registration fee goes to the State of CT Home Improvement Guaranty Fund. This fund was created to help pay back homeowners who received poor workmanship or incomplete work. There are so many problems with home improvement contractors that this fund was created and is paid for by decent contractors like myself. There is no guaranty fund needed in the elevator industry because there are rules, codes and proper licensing required.

Every area of the stair lift industry (installation methods, safety devices, user evaluation, ANSI and ASME codes, and product knowledge) takes years of education, training and experience in order to properly and safely specify and install a stair lift. If installations are put in the hands of home improvement contractors, you open the door to unsatisfied customers, injuries and/or death and litigation. There is a reason that an elevator license is required. The public and human safety are more important than bypassing the CT licensing requirements to allow home improvement contractors to install stair lifts.

It is **imperative** that you **veto** a bill that could cause serious injury or death to people who need stair lifts, which will happen if installations are put in the hands of the untrained and inexperienced home improvement contractor.

Sincerely,

Clifford Bullock  
President, Bullock Access  
Elevator Limited Contractor #425004-R5

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[BullockCompany@Comcast.net](mailto:BullockCompany@Comcast.net) or [Cliff@BullockAccess.com](mailto:Cliff@BullockAccess.com)