

2/22/16

To whom it may concern:

Re: Proposed act allowing licensed home improvement contractors to install Stair Way Chair Lifts (SWCL) in private single family homes in CT. S.B. 191

Greetings:

I support this change and do not feel it would create a safety issue for homeowners in CT. In fact, I believe it will improve safety. Currently SWCLs are sometimes being installed by unlicensed contractors.

Contractors who currently cannot obtain the R-5 limited elevator license and whose employees cannot sit for the R-6 elevator limited license test due to lack of experience in the installation of other equipment covered under that license are either forced to go out of business; restrained in the growth of their businesses or simply continue to do the installations without licensed technicians.

Such contractors would not be restricted from obtaining a home improvement license to practice their trade and so could come out of the shadows so to speak and be registered by the State.

The home improvement licensing process could confirm they have appropriate liability insurance and have a safety program and a training program in place to install SWCLs.

Training (on going) is the key to safety. Just passing a licensing exam one time focused on codes and standards helps but does not make a technician safe or provide evidence they are fully trained.

Responsible contractors will always provide training for their technicians which may include product specific training by manufacturers of the equipment they install; safety training and courses such as CAT (Certified Accessibility Technician) which is a two year formal training program. This course covers the codes and standards governing SWCLs as well as other equipment.

A responsible contractor would be happy to submit their safety program and their ongoing training program to obtain a Home Improvement License.

While I believe the R-5, R-6 license should be a requirement to install vertical and inclined platform lifts in private and public buildings and SWCLs in public buildings, I do not believe it should be a requirement to install SWCLs in private single family dwellings.

Respectfully,

Douglas W. Boydston  
Handi-Lift, Inc. - Celebrating 40 years as a full service Accessibility Company

I Hold the R-5 limited elevator license in CT  
I was Past Chair and current am Vice-Chair of ASME A18.1 Main Committee  
I was Past President and am a long time member of NAEC  
I am a Member of AEMA  
HLI is a Member of ECNY  
I am a Member of the Elevator Code Committee in NJ



Member, National Association of Elevator Contractors (NAEC)  
Associate Member, Accessibility Equipment Manufacturer's Association (AEMA)  
Member, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC)  
Member, Elevator Conference of New York (ECNY)

