



International Union of Elevator Constructors

LOCAL NO. 91, 914 MAIN ST., SUITE 203, EAST HARTFORD, CONN. 06108
PHONE 860-289-8689

Testimony of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 91

General Law Committee

Connecticut General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 191 An Act Concerning Installers of Residential Stair Lifts.

February 23, 2016

Senator Leone, Representative Baram, Ranking Members & Members of the General Law Committee:

My name is John DeRosa, of Tolland, Connecticut. I represent the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 91. I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to Raised Bill No. 191.

I have been licensed in Connecticut for more than thirty years as an R2 Elevator Journeyperson. I am currently serving as Chairman of the Elevator Installation, Repair and Maintenance Work Examining Board for the State of Connecticut.

As a member of the "Elevator Board" I have strongly supported the efforts of the State of Connecticut, to promote the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the general public through the current licensing laws and regulations.

As an Elevator Constructor, our job is highly specialized and skilled. We go through extensive job training and spend years learning our craft.

Elevator work is highly regulated by the State of Connecticut in the on-going effort to enhance public health and safety. This regulation effort includes rigorous code enforcement and licensing of those Accessibility Contractors and Accessibility Journeypersons who install, maintain and repair Residential Stair Lifts (aka: Stairway Chairlifts).

Residential Stair Lifts are not a mere appliance, because they move people up the stairs within their homes. They are truly a sophisticated Vertical Transportation Conveyance System. Because of the complex electrical and mechanical aspects of



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these devices, the State of Connecticut adopted the *ASME A18.1 - Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts*. The licensed installers of Stair Lifts must be well trained in all aspects of both power and control wiring per the *National Electrical Code (NEC; NFPA 70)*. Additionally, the installer must be capable of adjusting, calibrating, testing and maintaining the critical settings of the Speed Governors and the Over-Speed Safety Mechanisms. The installer must also be knowledgeable about the Minimum Factors of Safety and Stresses of the entire Stair Lift system.

The *ASME A18.1 Standard* adopted in Connecticut was developed by *The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)* and is intended to serve as the basis for state and municipal authorities in drafting regulations governing the installation, testing, inspection, maintenance, alteration and repair of Stairway Chairlifts.

Raised Bill No. 191 would remove the current minimum license requirements of installers of Residential Stair Lifts, which require that a person complete an Elevator Accessibility Apprenticeship Program to install Residential Stair Lifts. As a result, the health, safety and welfare of any person using Residential Stair Lifts would be in jeopardy. Additionally the individual "Home Improvement Contractor employees" who may be required by their employers to perform work for which they are not qualified, would be in danger of personal injury to themselves or others.

It is important to remember that Residential Stair Lifts are commonly used by the elderly and those facing physical, or mental challenges. Please continue to protect the needs of those individuals within our community. They all need assurance that their Residential Stair Lift was installed, maintained and repaired by highly qualified, trained individuals who have the appropriate level of licensing credentials.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John DeRosa