

S.B. 191



2/22/16

To whom it may concern:

The proposal to allow licensed home improvements is a positive step in making Stairlifts more available to consumers in Connecticut who require these devices. AEMA supports accreditation and or licensing that improves the availability of safe and expert installation of accessibility products.

The current licensing process in Connecticut does not facilitate either increased safety or expert installation of Stairlifts because it restricts the applicable license to firms/individuals that install the full array of accessibility products. The current licensing does not differentiate between vertical and inclined platform lifts in public and private buildings and Stairlifts that are installed in private single family homes. Our view is that Stairlifts can safely be installed by licensed contractors for the following reasons:

Responsible Stairlift manufacturers have consistently made installation training a mandatory component for appointment of dealers who represent and distribute/install their products. Many of these training programs are certified as training modules for the CAT program's certification (Certified Accessibility Technician).

All of these programs are designed to insure that consumers are provided safe, expertly installed Stairlifts that are compliant with the codes and standards that govern the accessibility industry. These programs also insure that the technicians are familiar with the industry standard safety procedures to insure the highest level of consumer and installer/technician protection.

The Connecticut accessibility consumer will be better served with the adoption of this proposal.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Townsend'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark Townsend

President, AEMA

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