OLR Bill Analysis
HB 6957

AN ACT REQUIRING ACCESSIBILITY EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN CERTAIN STATE BUILDINGS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to revise the State Building Code to require that any state-owned building constructed or renovated include accessibility equipment for people with disabilities as part of the project, effective on or after the code revision date. It also prohibits the Department of Administrative Services from entering a lease agreement for use of a building by any state agency or entity unless the building has accessibility equipment for people with disabilities. In both instances, the accessibility equipment must include wheelchair ramps, power-assist doors, and accessible restrooms and elevators.

Under existing law, the State Building Code contains several accessibility requirements, including that restrooms and elevators be accessible in state buildings and other buildings subject to the Code (Sections 1109.2 and 1109.7 of the Code). By law, the State Building Code must, among other things, be in substantial compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (CGS § 29-269(a)). With some exceptions, federal regulations promulgated under the Act require (1) activities conducted by a public entity in existing buildings to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, and (2) that publicly owned or leased buildings that are constructed or altered by or for the use of a public entity must be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities (28 CFR §§ 35.150 and 35.151).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION
Public Safety and Security Committee
Joint Favorable
Yea  24  Nay  0  (03/19/2019)