

# Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5164

AN ACT CONCERNING INSTALLERS OF RESIDENTIAL VERTICAL

**Title:** PLATFORM LIFTS.

**Vote Date:** 3/24/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/11/2021

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Co-Sponsor: Rep. Robin Green, 55<sup>th</sup> Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill will allow DCP to create a license for technicians to install residential vertical platform lifts. Currently, the installation of these lifts require that a technician has either an R1 or R5 elevator license. R1 licensees are predominantly commercial installers. By having a license to install these vertical platform lifts, it will help when people are trying to install lifts in private residences. Often people have an immediate need to have these lifts installed, this would eliminate the wait time that currently exists.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Michelle Seagull, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection**

If the intent of this bill is to require a license to perform the installation of vertical stair lifts in private residences, such requirements already exist. If this proposal was drafted to allow for a lower level license for residential installation of vertical platform lifts, then DCP recommends amending CGS 20-340f to require DCP add the installation of vertical platform lists to Regulations of CT State Agencies Section 21a-340f-1.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Robert Danek, owner, Amramp**

Mr. Danek is in support of this bill. There are several companies that sell Vertical Platform Lift's, some with on-staff R-5 licensed installers, but there is still a low number of licensed

installers, often causing people to have to wait for an unacceptable amount of time. People are aging in place and need to make their homes accessible for wheelchairs. They cannot wait 4-6 weeks for someone to come and install their lift.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**John DeRosa, International Union of Elevator Constructors, Local 91**

Mr. DeRosa is opposed to this bill. This bill would create a Residential Stair Lift Technicians License which already exists in the state of Connecticut. It is important to remember that accessibility equipment is used by the elderly and those facing physical, or mental challenges, please continue to protect these individuals. The equipment needs to be installed, maintained and repaired by highly qualified and trained individuals.

**Paul Farnsworth, Elevator Service Company, Inc.**

Mr. Farnsworth is opposed to this bill. This bill seeks to expand the work that can be performed by the holder of the RSL License to include vertical platform lifts, which are in certain ways like a small passenger elevator. The holder of the RSL license should pursue one of the following: R1, R2, R5, or R6.

**Kimberly Glassman, Director, Foundation of Fair Contracting of Connecticut, Inc.**

Ms. Glassman is opposed to this bill. The state of Connecticut already has a residential stair lift technician's license and this bill is not necessary. Diluting or undermining the current Accessibility licenses could result in workplace injuries of those who are installing the chair lifts and cause serious injuries to those using the lifts, many of whom are elderly or differently abled individuals.

**Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk**

**Date: 4/1/2021**