PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
Connecticut General Assembly

Public Hearing Testimony
Thursday, February 11, 2021

Proposed Bill No. 5164

AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE OF RESIDENTIAL STAIR LIFT TECHNICIANS.

Chairperson Horn, Ranking Members and Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

My name is Paul Farnsworth, of North Branford, Connecticut. I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Proposed Bill No. 5164.

I am a fourth generation Elevator Contractor. My family began Elevator manufacturing and contracting in 1895 in New Haven, CT and we have 126 years of continuous experience in our chosen industry. I have been licensed in Connecticut for more than forty years, as an R-2 Unlimited Elevator Journeyperson and as an R-1 Unlimited Elevator Contractor.

Currently, I am a Contractor Member and a past Chairman of the Elevator Installation, Repair and Maintenance Work Examining Board (Elevator Board), for the State of Connecticut.

The Statement of Purpose of Proposed Bill No. 5164 is:

Elevator Installers & Repairers
Connecticut License No. ELV. 400105 R1
Rhode Island License No. 21
Massachusetts License No. EC-000093
ASME/QEI Certified Elevator Inspectors
Mechanics - NEIEP Trained •OSHA Certified
“To promote and facilitate the safe installation of personal stair lifts by requiring installers of such lifts in private residences to be licensed as residential stair lift technicians.”

The aforementioned purpose has previously been achieved, because a “Residential Stair Lift Technician License” (RSL License) was established in 2016 by Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 20-340f and the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies as amended in Sections 21a-340f-1 to 21a-340f-3 inclusive.

**Proposed Bill No. 5164** requires that individuals installing Vertical Platform Lifts in private residences be required to obtain the RSL License. This would be an unnecessary duplication, because a Vertical Platform Lift can now legally be installed in a private residence by an individual holding any one of the following existing trade licenses:
- R-1 Unlimited Elevator Contractor
- R-2 Unlimited Elevator Journeyperson
- R-5 Limited Accessibility Contractor
- R-6 Limited Accessibility Journeyman

Presently, holders of the Residential Stair Lift License are limited to the installation, repair, replacement, maintenance, or alteration of Inclined Residential Stairway Chair Lifts. **Proposed Bill No. 5164** seeks to expand the work that can be performed by the holder of a RSL License to include Vertical Platform Lifts, which are in certain ways similar to a small Passenger Elevator. The holders of an RSL License should pursue one of the licenses listed above, to achieve the necessary professional standards to safely install Vertical Platform Lifts in private residences.

In short, the health, safety and welfare of the general public will be jeopardized by **Proposed Bill No. 5164** and I strongly oppose the passage of this Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views to your distinguished committee.

**Paul B. Farnsworth**

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