
Labor & Workplace Standards Committee

HB 1487

Brief Description: Extending the validity of temporary elevator licenses, expanding membership of the elevator safety advisory committee, allowing homeowners to remove certain conveyances from their residences, and eliminating duplicate paperwork.

Sponsors: Representatives Chapman, Chandler and Doglio; by request of Department of Labor & Industries.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes the 30-day period for a temporary elevator mechanic license to one year.
- Exempts removal of residential stairway chair or platform lifts from elevator licensing requirements.
- Allows modification of the Elevator Safety Advisory Committee membership.

Hearing Date: 1/28/19

Staff: Joan Elgee (786-7106).

Background:

The Department of Labor and Industries (Department) regulates elevators, escalators, moving walks, and other specified devices, known as conveyances. Entities engaged in the business of performing installations, alterations, maintenance, and other conveyance work must obtain an elevator contractor license from the Department and must also be registered as a general or specialty contractor. Performing work without a required license is a misdemeanor. An installer must apply for and obtain a permit before performing work other than maintenance and post the permit on the jobsite. The application must be submitted in duplicate.

With some exceptions, persons performing conveyance work must have an elevator mechanic license. An applicant must have an acceptable combination of experience and education, to

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include at least three years' experience performing conveyance work, and pass an examination. The Department specifies the required number of education hours for the type of work the applicant will perform.

Temporary elevator mechanic licenses are issued to those certified as qualified and competent by elevator contractors. The Department also requires that a temporary mechanic have at least 75 percent of the education and training hours to obtain a mechanic license. A temporary license is valid for 30 days, and may be renewed. To renew a license, a person must complete at least eight hours of continuing education within one year of the renewal.

The Elevator Safety Advisory Committee (Committee) advises the Department on adoption of rules, enforcement and administration of the elevator laws, and matters of concern to stakeholders. The Committee consists of one representative each of elevator contractors, elevator mechanics, owner-employed mechanics exempt from licensing, building owners or managers, architects or professional engineers, and general commercial contractors.

Summary of Bill:

An installer must submit a set of plans when required when applying for a permit. The plans must be posted along with the permit. The requirement that an application be submitted in duplicate is deleted.

The licensing requirements do not apply to homeowners, or person employed by homeowners, for permanent removal of a stairway chair lift or a platform lift in a private residence.

The 30-day period for a temporary elevator mechanic license is changed to one year.

The Department may increase the membership of the Committee to two representatives each of elevator contractors, elevator mechanics, owner-employed mechanics exempt from licensing, building owners or managers, and general commercial contractors, but the membership may not exceed nine persons.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.