
Government of the District of Columbia



Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Testimony of

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on the

“Elevator Maintenance Standards Act of 2009”
Bill 18-236

Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs
Muriel Bowser, Chair

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Room 412
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
2:00 P.M.

Good afternoon, Chairperson Bowser, members, and staff of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. I am Clifford Cooks, Program Manager of the Occupational and Professional Licensing Division at the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. I'm here today to testify on the licensing provisions of Bill 18-236, the "Elevator Maintenance Standards Act of 2009."

DCRA's fundamental mission is to protect the health, safety, economic interests, and quality of life of District of Columbia residents, businesses, and visitors by ensuring code compliance and regulating businesses. DCRA meets this mission by issuing licenses and permits; conducting inspections; enforcing building, housing, and safety codes; regulating land use and development; and providing consumer education and advocacy services.

The Occupational and Professional Licensing Division provides administrative support to nine statutorily-created professional boards and commissions:

- Board of Accountancy;
- Board of Architecture and Interior Design;
- Board of Barber and Cosmetology;
- Boxing and Wrestling Commission;
- Board of Funeral Directors;
- Board of Industrial Trades;
- Board of Professional Engineering;
- Board of Real Estate; and
- Board of Real Estate Appraisers.

These boards regulate the practices of their individual professions in the District. Specifically, they are responsible for reviewing and approving applications, administering examinations, enforcing regulatory codes, providing license education, and responding to certification requests by other jurisdictions.

Bill 18-236 would create several new professional licenses that would be required for persons who install or provide maintenance or inspections services for specified conveyances, including elevators and escalators. Specifically, the bill establishes three new license categories: elevator contractor, elevator mechanic, and elevator inspector. It also creates two new additional subcategories of licenses: an emergency elevator mechanic license and a temporary elevator mechanic license. The bill describes the qualifications necessary for each of these new license

categories, insurance requirements, and sets out the application and disciplinary processes.

The bill contains additional provisions that duplicate existing District statutory or regulatory requirements concerning registration of elevators, compliance with D.C. Construction Codes, and permitting for elevator construction.

Bill 18-236 also creates a new requirement for an annual inspection and testing of every registered elevator or conveyance in the District to be conducted by either a licensed elevator inspector or elevator mechanic. I would like to note for the record that DCRA already requires each elevator in the District to be licensed and to be inspected every two years. DCRA also requires a supplemental building permit for the construction of elevators and all elevators must be built and maintained according to Construction Codes specifications.

DCRA has been drafting legislation that would require licensure for elevator maintenance specialists. Our draft legislation would accomplish this bill's stated licensure goals, without including any unnecessary provisions that duplicate existing District statutory or regulatory requirements.

In our draft legislation, we would be working within the existing professional licensure statutory framework of the "Non-Health Related Occupations and Professions Licensure Act of 1998" (D.C. Official Code § 47-2853 *et seq.*).

Our draft legislation would amend the statute establishing the Board of Industrial Trades to include elevator maintenance specialists within its purview. This would negate the need for creating an entirely new regulatory scheme, as envisioned by the bill.

To conclude, we believe this bill is unnecessary due to our draft legislation that will require licensure of elevator maintenance professionals without creating any new and unnecessary framework.

Chairperson Bowser, thank you for providing us this opportunity to testify on Bill 18-236. I'm prepared to answer any questions you may have at this time.