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Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 3: BUILDING STANDARDS.

EXISTING FEDERAL LAW, INCLUDING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PROVIDES GUIDELINES FOR MAKING PUBLIC BUILDINGS ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE FOR PEOPLE OF EVERY ABILITY LEVEL. EXISTING STATE LAW REQUIRES SUPPORT RAILS TO BE INSTALLED IN ELEVATORS WHEN LOCATED IN A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OR ALTERED PORTION OF A PUBLIC BUILDING, AS SPECIFIED.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE THAT SUPPORT RAILS BE INSTALLED IN ALL NEW AND EXISTING PUBLIC BUILDING ELEVATORS, BEGINNING WITH ELEVATORS IN MEDICAL BUILDINGS, AS A SAFETY MEASURE TO PROTECT OLDER ADULTS.

VOTE MAJORITY.

AP 3: RELATING TO BUILDING STANDARDS: ELEVATORS: SUPPORT RAILS

WHEREAS, THE FEDERAL OLDER AMERICANS ACT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, DEVELOPS PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST OLDER ADULTS IN OBTAINING COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES; AND

WHEREAS, THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REQUIRES THAT PUBLIC BUILDINGS BE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE OF EVERY ABILITY LEVEL, AS SPECIFIED; AND

WHEREAS, FEDERAL LAW, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REQUIRES SUPPORT RAILS TO BE INSTALLED IN NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OR ALTERED PORTIONS OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCATION, SIZE, SPACING, AND STRENGTH SPECIFICATIONS; AND

WHEREAS, STATE LAW REQUIRES SUPPORT RAILS TO BE INSTALLED IN ELEVATORS WHEN LOCATED IN A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OR ALTERED PORTION OF A PUBLIC BUILDING; AND

WHEREAS, WHILE CONTROL SYSTEMS HAVE CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND SPEED OF ELEVATORS, THE DESIGN OF ELEVATORS HAS CHANGED LITTLE IN THE PAST 50 YEARS; AND

WHEREAS, ALTHOUGH STATE LAW REQUIRES SUPPORT RAILS IN MANY ELEVATORS, NOT ALL ELEVATORS IN MEDICAL BUILDINGS HAVE SUPPORT RAILS; AND

WHEREAS, PASSENGERS GRASP SUPPORT RAILS FOR STABILITY AND SAFETY IN ELEVATORS; AND

WHEREAS, DATA SHOWS THAT FALLS OCCURRING IN ELEVATORS CONTRIBUTED TO 27 DEATHS FROM 1997 TO 2003, INCLUSIVE; AND

WHEREAS, AS THE OLDER POPULATION CONTINUES TO LIVE LONGER, FALLING IS BECOMING A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF INJURIES AND DEATHS; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2016 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT SUPPORT RAILS BE INSTALLED IN ALL NEW AND EXISTING PUBLIC BUILDING ELEVATORS, BEGINNING WITH ELEVATORS IN MEDICAL BUILDINGS, AS A SAFETY MEASURE TO PROTECT OLDER ADULTS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.