
By: **Senator Stoltzfus**
Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2003
Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Lodging Establishments - Persons With a Mobility Impairment - Accessible**
3 **Rooms and Platform Lifts**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring lodging establishments to offer a certain accessible
5 room to a person with a mobility impairment; requiring lodging establishments
6 to install a platform lift or stairway device on every other floor and to train
7 certain personnel to operate the platform lift or stairway device and provide
8 certain assistance; requiring certain staff to note the use of an accessible room
9 by a person with a mobility impairment in order to advise emergency personnel
10 in the event of evacuation; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the
11 accommodation of persons with a mobility impairment in lodging
12 establishments.

13 BY adding to
14 Article - Business Regulation
15 Section 15-301 and 15-302 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 3. Lodging for
16 Persons With a Mobility Impairment"
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

19 Preamble

20 WHEREAS, Individuals with a disability represent 20% of our population; and

21 WHEREAS, Individuals with a disability are increasingly mobile and require
22 hotel and motel accommodations when traveling or attending meetings; and

23 WHEREAS, Elevators in buildings are shut down during emergencies, and
24 persons with a mobility impairment in upper level rooms frequently have no
25 alternative for escape during an emergency; now, therefore,

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 **Article - Business Regulation**2 **SUBTITLE 3. LODGING FOR PERSONS WITH A MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT.**

3 15-301.

4 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
5 INDICATED.6 (B) "ACCESSIBLE ROOM" MEANS A ROOM IN A LODGING ESTABLISHMENT
7 CONSISTENT WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ACCESSIBILITY
8 GUIDELINES FOR BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.9 (C) "FRONT DESK STAFF" INCLUDES A MANAGER, ASSISTANT MANAGER,
10 CONCIERGE, DESK CLERK, OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF A LODGING
11 ESTABLISHMENT WHO KNOWS OR HAS REASON TO KNOW THAT A PERSON WITH A
12 MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT REQUIRING AN ACCESSIBLE ROOM IS CHECKING INTO THE
13 LODGING ESTABLISHMENT.14 (D) "LODGING ESTABLISHMENT" MEANS AN INN, HOTEL, MOTEL, OR OTHER
15 ESTABLISHMENT THAT HAS AT LEAST FOUR ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR A FEE TO
16 TRANSIENT GUESTS FOR LODGING OR SLEEPING PURPOSES.17 (E) "PLATFORM LIFT" MEANS AN INCLINED STAIRWAY LIFT WITH LIMITED
18 VERTICAL TRAVEL, OPERATING SPEED, AND PLATFORM AREA INTENDED FOR THE
19 TRANSPORTATION OF A PERSON WITH A MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT UP OR DOWN ONE
20 FLIGHT OF STAIRS.21 (F) "STAIRWAY DEVICE" MEANS ANY EQUIPMENT OR MECHANISM, OTHER
22 THAN A PLATFORM LIFT, INTENDED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF A PERSON WITH
23 A MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT UP OR DOWN ONE FLIGHT OF STAIRS.

24 15-302.

25 (A) A LODGING ESTABLISHMENT SHALL:

26 (1) OFFER TO A PERSON WITH A MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT AN ACCESSIBLE
27 ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR, OR AN ACCESSIBLE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OR
28 LOWER IF ALL ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR ARE OCCUPIED;29 (2) INSTALL A PLATFORM LIFT OR STAIRWAY DEVICE FOR EVERY OTHER
30 FLOOR; AND31 (3) TRAIN PERSONNEL TO OPERATE A PLATFORM LIFT OR STAIRWAY
32 DEVICE AND ASSIST A PERSON WITH A MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT IN THE EVENT OF
33 EVACUATION OF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT.34 (B) THE PLATFORM LIFT OR STAIRWAY DEVICE SHALL BE OPERATED UNDER
35 THE CONTINUOUS CONTROL OF THE USER OR ATTENDANT CONSISTENT WITH THE

1 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR BUILDINGS
2 AND FACILITIES.

3 (C) FRONT DESK STAFF SHALL:

4 (1) FIRST OFFER AN ACCESSIBLE ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR, IF
5 UNOCCUPIED, TO A PERSON WITH A MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT WHO REQUIRES AN
6 ACCESSIBLE ROOM BEFORE OFFERING THE PERSON A ROOM ON ANOTHER FLOOR;
7 AND

8 (2) NOTE THE USE OF A ROOM ON ANY FLOOR BY A PERSON WITH A
9 MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT WHO REQUIRES AN ACCESSIBLE ROOM IN ORDER TO ADVISE
10 EMERGENCY PERSONNEL OF THE PERSON'S LOCATION IN THE EVENT OF
11 EVACUATION OF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2003.