

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 695
Economic Matters

(Delegate C. Wilson, *et al.*)

Public Safety - Vertical Reciprocating Conveyors - Safety Standards

This bill defines “vertical reciprocating conveyors” (VRCs) and specifies that they (1) are not considered elevators for purposes of regulation and (2) are regulated by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Safety Standard for Conveyors and Related Equipment. The Commissioner of Labor and Industry must adopt regulations that generally conform to the ASME standards.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) can handle the bill’s requirements with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Commissioner of Labor and Industry must adopt regulations that conform to the American National Standards Institute/ASME Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters, Escalators, and Moving Walks and adopt regulations to amend those standards as necessary to fulfill the commissioner’s responsibilities.

Background: The Safety Standard for Conveyors and Related Equipment, ASME B20.1-2012, contains guides for their design, construction, installation, operation, and maintenance. The conveyors may be of the bulk material, package, or unit-handling types, where the installation is designed for permanent, temporary, or portable operation.

DLLR advises that the standard defines a VRC as a reciprocating power- or gravity-actuated unit (not designed to carry passengers or an operator) that receives objects on a carrier and transmits these objects vertically between two or more levels. A “carrier” is defined as (1) a device attached to or hung from trolleys to support the load; (2) the receptacle in which objects are placed for transmittal through a conveying system; or (3) the moving part of a vertical or inclined reciprocating conveyor that supports the load. ASME B20.1-2012 does not apply to cableways, tramways, dumbwaiters, material lifts, or industrial scissor lifts, among other devices.

The Elevator Safety Review Board was established by Chapter 703 of 2001 as a nine-member board within DLLR to license elevator contractors and elevator mechanics. Prior to the enactment of Chapter 703, although registration and inspection provisions existed for the use of elevators, no provisions existed for elevator installation and maintenance.

State Fiscal Effect: DLLR advises that, as VRCs are not “elevators” for purposes of regulation, the department is not required to register or regularly inspect these devices, and mechanics working on VRCs are not required to be licensed. Therefore, the only operational impact on DLLR is the requirement to adopt regulations, which can be accomplished with existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Department of Legislative Services

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