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By: **Senator Colburn**
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002
Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Lodging - Individuals with Disabilities - Accessible Rooms and**
3 **Platform Lifts**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a certain place of public lodging to provide a certain
5   accessible room to an individual with a disability; requiring a certain place of
6   public lodging to install a platform lift on every other floor; requiring the
7   implementation of training for personnel in certain places of public lodging
8   regarding the operation of a platform lift; requiring certain staff to note the use
9   of an accessible room by an individual with a disability in order to advise
10   emergency personnel in certain circumstances; defining certain terms;
11   amending a certain title; and generally relating to the accommodation of
12   individuals with disabilities in places of public lodging.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14   Article - Business Regulation
15   Section 15-102 to be under the amended title "Title 15. Hotels and Other Places
16   of Public Lodging"
17   Annotated Code of Maryland
18   (1998 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20   Article - Business Regulation
21   Section 15-108
22   Annotated Code of Maryland
23   (1998 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

1 **Article - Business Regulation**

2 Title 15. Hotels AND OTHER PLACES OF PUBLIC LODGING.

3 15-102.

4 Except for [§ 15-105] §§ 15-105 AND 15-108 of this title, this title applies only to
5 those hotels that display in each guest room a notice of the provisions of this title.

6 15-108.

7 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
8 INDICATED.

9 (2) "ACCESSIBLE ROOM" MEANS A ROOM IN A PLACE OF PUBLIC
10 LODGING CONSISTENT WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
11 ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.

12 (3) "FRONT DESK STAFF" INCLUDES A MANAGER, ASSISTANT MANAGER,
13 CONCIERGE, DESK CLERK, OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF A PLACE OF
14 PUBLIC LODGING WHO KNOWS OR HAS REASON TO KNOW THAT AN INDIVIDUAL
15 WITH A DISABILITY REQUIRING AN ACCESSIBLE ROOM IS CHECKING INTO THE
16 ESTABLISHMENT.

17 (4) "PLACE OF PUBLIC LODGING" INCLUDES A HOTEL, INN, MOTEL, AND
18 ANY OTHER ESTABLISHMENT WHICH PROVIDES PUBLIC LODGING FOR TRANSIENT
19 GUESTS AND HAS FOUR FLOORS OR MORE.

20 (5) "PLATFORM LIFT" MEANS AN INCLINED STAIRWAY LIFT WITH
21 LIMITED VERTICAL TRAVEL, OPERATING SPEED, AND PLATFORM AREA INTENDED
22 FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF A MOBILITY IMPAIRED PERSON UP OR DOWN ONE
23 FLIGHT OF STAIRS.

24 (B) A PLACE OF PUBLIC LODGING SHALL:

25 (1) PROVIDE AN ACCESSIBLE ROOM THAT IS LOCATED ON THE SIXTH
26 FLOOR OR BELOW TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY;

27 (2) ACQUIRE A PLATFORM LIFT FOR EVERY OTHER FLOOR; AND

28 (3) IMPLEMENT TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL REGARDING:

29 (I) HOW TO OPERATE A PLATFORM LIFT PURSUANT TO
30 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; AND

31 (II) HOW TO BEST ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES IN
32 THE EVENT OF EVACUATION.

33 (C) OPERATION OF A PLATFORM LIFT SHALL BE UNDER THE CONTINUOUS
34 CONTROL OF THE USER OR ATTENDANT AND SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE

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

3   (D)   FRONT DESK STAFF SHALL:

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

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

12   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2002.