

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 553 (Delegate Ruff, *et al.*)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Public Safety - Elevator Inspection Certificates - Searchable Database

This bill requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry within the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) to post a user-friendly, searchable database of active elevator inspection certificates on MD Labor’s website. The database must allow users to search for active certificates by street address, city, and county.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s requirements can likely be implemented with existing budgeted resources. However, to the extent that existing online resources do not meet the bill’s requirements, general fund expenditures may increase by \$75,000, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local governmental operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: “Elevator” means a hoisting and lowering machine equipped with a car or platform that moves in guides in a substantially vertical direction and serves two or more floors of a building or structure.

Elevators in the State must be inspected, tested, and maintained in a safe operating condition in accordance with the State Safety Code and regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. Unless otherwise specified by statute, an elevator may not operate in a building, structure, or place of employment in the State unless it has

been certified by the commissioner. A certificate must be posted conspicuously in or on the elevator unit.

Generally, each elevator owned or operated in the State must be registered with the Commissioner of Labor and Industry and is subject to initial and periodic inspections. An elevator unit installed in a building or structure under federal control is exempt from the State's registration and inspection requirements for commercial elevators. An elevator unit installed in a privately-owned single-family residential dwelling must be registered at least 60 days before it is placed in service and inspected on completion of installation, but is otherwise exempt from periodic inspections.

State Expenditures: MD Labor indicates that its Safety Inspection Unit currently maintains a database to track its own inspection and certification activities. The unit currently extracts data regarding elevator certificate status into an Excel spreadsheet and posts that data monthly [on its website](#).

To the extent that the Excel spreadsheet, which contains the data required by the bill in a searchable format, meets the bill's requirement for a "user-friendly" searchable database, MD Labor can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources. If the existing spreadsheet does not meet the bill's requirements, MD Labor must add a module that allows limited public access to its current internal elevator inspection database at an estimated one-time cost of \$75,000.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 286 (Senator McCray) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

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sj/mcr

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