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### Senate Bill 618

Date: February 27, 2020  
Committee: Finance  
Bill Title: Public Safety - Hydraulic Elevator Inspections - Privately Owned Buildings  
Re: **Letter of Support with Amendment**

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Senate Bill 618 modifies the elevator safety laws to delay in person witnessing of annual tests of elevators in privately owned buildings by one year. Moreover, the bill defines direct acting hydraulic elevator and delays the same in person witnessing of annual tests an additional year.

Current law provides that as of October 1, 2020 §12-806(d)(4)(iii) an annual test on an elevator of a *privately* owned building requires testing be performed by a licensed elevator mechanic in the *physical presence* of a third-party qualified elevator inspector (TPQEI). This bill would extend this in-person witnessing requirement from October 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021 and further extend this same requirement for direct acting hydraulic elevators until October 1, 2022.

Currently, there are not enough TPQEI's in Maryland to perform the required inspections with the in person witnessing requirements in a timely manner. Just since the second phase of the 2018 bill was implemented on October 1, 2019, which shifted most inspections of *publicly* owned buildings to TPQEI and required in person witnessing of tests, the number of elevators overdue for inspection has grown while the TPQEI is still catching up.

There are approximately 4,600 public units currently in operation. The Department estimates that, on average, 1,150 elevators need to be inspected and witnessed each quarter. During the first quarter after the second phase change took effect (October, November and December of 2019), inspection reports submitted by TPQEI's totaled 651 witnessed elevator tests, falling 43% short of the estimated quarterly inspection load of 1,150 units.

Currently, there are approximately 75 active TPQEI's performing inspections in Maryland, and only approximately 10 of them work full time. Without the changes in this bill, the Department estimates that an additional 17 to 34 full time TPQEI will be needed to handle the increased inspection duration estimated for changes that will go into effect on October 1, 2020.

**The Department recommends the bill be amended to delay implementation of the third phase for all elevators to October 1, 2022 to avoid confusion and to allow sufficient time for new inspectors to come into the marketplace. With that amendment, the Department respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee.**

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 618  
(FIRST READING FILE BILL)

On page 4, in line 25, strike "2021" and insert "2022".