

# **SB 198 - Elevator Safety - Privately Owned Single-**

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FAV



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**SB 198 - Elevator Safety - Privately Owned Single-Family Residential Elevators - Inspection and Registration Requirements  
Senate Finance Committee  
February 9, 2023**

**SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 198. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

SB 198 applies existing elevator registration and inspection requirements to private single-family home elevators if they were installed after October 1, 2023. This requires private home elevator owners to register their elevators with the Commissioner of Labor and Industry and schedule initial inspections to ensure that it was properly installed. The bill does not require any re-inspections or followup registrations.

Home elevators can be dangerous when not properly installed or maintained. Their current exemption from initial inspections allows problems to grow over time. Without proper inspections by well-trained elevator mechanics, elevators can be deadly. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced last year that it found 41 deaths linked to elevators from 2018 to 2021 and 19,000 injuries that resulted in emergency room visits, even stating "Residential elevators pose a deadly risk to children. It is long past time for all homeowners to address the hazard and ensure that children cannot get trapped between elevator doors, particularly in homes that are used as vacation rentals, by families who may not be familiar with elevators."

In 2022, the elevator manufacturer ThyssenKrupp Access agreed to recall 16,800 residential elevators after years of unsafe design allowed small children to be crushed between the doors. The Washington Post reported that a simple modification costing \$100 prevents the issue in the future, but the company avoided regulatory enforcement that could have saved lives. SB 198 is a practical step forward to improve safety by requiring initial inspections on private single-family home elevators.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 198.

**BDCBT SB 0198 Testimony 02092023.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jeffry Guido

Position: FAV



**Maryland Senate - Finance Committee**

**Chair: Melony Griffith**

**Vice Chair: Katherine Klausmeier**

**Senate Bill 0198 - Elevator Safety – Privately Owned Single–Family Residential Elevators – Inspection and Registration Requirements**

**Position: Support**

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports SB 0144. The Maryland Elevator Safety Review Board licenses and regulates individuals who engage in the business of erecting, constructing, wiring, altering, replacing, maintaining, repairing, dismantling, or servicing elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, and moving walks. It is in the public interest to have these devices regularly inspected and certified by qualified elevator inspectors and properly registered by the owners or lessees.

We urge the Committee for a favorable report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffry Guido

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# **SB 198 Residential Elevators.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tom Clark

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# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 198 ELEVATOR SAFETY-PRIVATELY OWNED-RESIDENTIAL February 9, 2023

TO: Hon. Melony Griffith, Chair and members of the Senate Finance Committee  
From: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 26

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, I ask that you eagerly **support SB 198**, a bill that **will** save lives. Residential elevator systems need to be inspected and meet the registration requirements that is commonplace in commercial buildings. This is not a “red tape” issue, it is a “life safety” issue.

As an electrician, this does not and will not effect my work picture. I write this testimony as a concerned Maryland citizen that wants the best conditions for Marylanders. Too often these elevators in residential dwellings go unchecked for years, placing the residents in danger. You will also find residential elevators installed in numerous rental vacation homes in Ocean City, Deep Creek Lake or on waterfront property. In these circumstances, the elevator user is not too familiar with the proper and safe use the elevator, resulting in user error and dangerous situations. Recently, in North Carolina an uninspected, unregistered vacation home elevator malfunctioned and caused to door to be ajar. Sadly, a toddler fell through and down the shaft. Although the fall injured the child, he was killed when an unknowing family member used the elevator and the victim was crushed. Pardon the most extreme and horrific example, I just think this piece of legislation is that important to prevent such a sad story from ever happening again.

I ask the Committee to join me, the professionals in the Elevator industry and Safety Directors throughout Maryland and **support SB 198**. A piece of legislation well overdue and most importantly a “life safety” issue. Thank you



**MBIA Letter of Opposition SB 198.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: UNF

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Melony G. Griffith  
Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building,  
3 East Wing 11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: SB 198 Elevator Safety – Privately Owned Single-Family Residential Elevators – Inspection and Registration Requirements**

Dear Chairwoman Griffith:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 198 Elevator Safety – Privately Owned Single-Family Residential Elevators – Inspection and Registration Requirements**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill establishes that an elevator installed in a privately owned single-family residential dwelling on or after October 1, 2023, is subject to certain inspection and registration requirements. MBIA Respectfully opposes this measure. This bill will have a significant financial impact on houses that install elevators and increase the price of housing. It is already expensive to buy a house in Maryland and this bill will make matters worse. A 2020 study by the National Association of Homebuilders shows that for every \$1,000 increase in the price of a median-priced new home, 2,881 Marylanders will be priced out of the market. Also, it is currently taking about 3 months to get an elevator inspection and this bill will only cause further delays in housing.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an **unfavorable** report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the Senate Finance Committee