



Statement of the National Elevator Industry, Inc.
Submitted to the Committee on Commerce and Labor
Ohio House of Representatives
Hearing on HB 107
March 24, 2021

The National Elevator Industry, Inc., (NEII) is the leading trade association for companies that manufacture, install, and maintain elevators, escalators, moving walks, and other building transportation products. NEII members collectively represent over eighty-five percent of the work hours in the building transportation industry. To further the public interest and to enhance safety for the elevator workforce and the riding public, NEII supports HB 107 and urges its enactment.

HB 107 would, among other provisions, amend the Ohio Revised Code to require the licensure and registration of elevator contractors and elevator mechanics. This legislation requires continuing education for registered elevator mechanics, provides for emergency licenses, requires contractors to maintain minimum levels of insurance coverage, and creates an Elevator Safety Review Board. Additionally, this bill grants the Ohio Division of Industrial Compliance rulemaking authority with regard to the elevator mechanic and contractor licensing process.

NEII, in collaboration and partnership with labor, promotes licensing for elevator industry contractors, mechanics, and inspectors. Licensing requirements for elevator mechanics establish minimum standards for qualifications, education, and training that can be relied on by both the public and the industry. The installation, maintenance, and repair of elevators, escalators, moving sidewalks, etc. are highly complex and technical undertakings. As a result, the applicable building codes are continually being revised and improved. It is imperative that elevator technicians be required to demonstrate a fundamental competency for this work.

NEII's member companies support licensing requirements because they already undertake steps to ensure their workers are adequately prepared. Licensing is not a tool to control or limit the workforce, it is a tool to ensure a trained and qualified workforce is available to work on this equipment and safeguard both the riding public and other personnel that may work on the equipment in the future.

Thirty-six states currently require licensure of elevator mechanics. Elevator mechanics typically secure their license in one of the three ways. First, they have a documented record of training from an apprenticeship program recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor. Second, they have a recognized record of experience in the industry, which, in combination with a test administered by the state, provides the basis for licensure. Third, a state may permit an applicant

to demonstrate competence by meeting applicable and relevant standards in another state. In all cases, successful licensure programs require continuing education as proposed by HB 107.

This legislation will also create an Elevator Safety Review Board within the Board of Building Standards under the Department of Commerce. An elevator board is a valuable tool to assist in the oversight, regulation and enforcement of this specialized industry. Currently thirty-eight states have an elevator board or advisory committee. All of them operate under the jurisdiction of a state agency and provide invaluable technical support to those states. For Ohio, under HB 107, the Elevator Safety Review Board will be comprised of elevator industry stakeholders, including manufacturers, service providers, the elevator building trade, building designers and owners, municipalities, and the general public. Each member will draw from their respective expertise to hear variance and appeal requests, review regulations, hold disciplinary administrative hearings, and assess penalties.

The elevator industry is concerned with safety first and foremost. NEII is confident it can work effectively with the Ohio Division of Industrial Compliance to develop implementing regulations that meet the needs of the State, the industry, the workforce, and the riding public.

NEII appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony and looks forward to working with the Committee and the House as it considers this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact NEII's Director of Government Affairs, Chelsea Chaney at (620) 332-9552 or via e-mail at cchaney@neii.org if you have any questions or need additional information. Ms. Chaney is available, as are representatives from NEII's member companies, to meet with members of the Committee to address any questions. Thank you for your time and attention to this important industry issue.