
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 639 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, COSTA, YUDICHAK, WOZNIAK, MCGARRIGLE AND
RAFFERTY, MARCH 13, 2015

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, MARCH 13, 2015

AN ACT

1 Providing for licensing of elevator contractors and mechanics;
2 and imposing duties on the Department of Labor and Industry.

3 TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Chapter 1. Preliminary Provisions

5 Section 101. Short title.

6 Section 102. Purpose.

7 Section 103. Definitions.

8 Chapter 3. Licensing

9 Section 301. License required.

10 Section 302. Issuance and renewal of licenses.

11 Section 303. Application for elevator contractor or mechanic
12 license.

13 Section 304. Qualifications.

14 Section 305. Hearing on charges and decision.

15 Section 306. Appeals.

16 Section 307. Practice without license prohibited.

17 Chapter 5. Miscellaneous Provisions

18 Section 501. Regulations.

1 Section 502. Construction.
2 Section 503. Applicability.
3 Section 504. Effective date.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 CHAPTER 1

7 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

8 Section 101. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Elevator
10 Contractor and Mechanic Licensure Act.

11 Section 102. Purpose.

12 The purpose of this act is to provide for the safety of
13 installers, maintainers and users and to promote public safety
14 awareness. The use of unsafe and defective lifting devices
15 imposes a substantial probability of serious and preventable
16 injury to employees and exposes the public to unsafe conditions.
17 The prevention of these injuries and protection of employees and
18 the public from unsafe conditions is in the best interest of the
19 people of this Commonwealth. Elevator personnel performing work
20 covered by this act are required to be documented in training or
21 experience, or both, and to be familiar with the operation and
22 safety functions of the components and equipment. Training and
23 experience include, but are not limited to, recognizing the
24 safety hazards and performing the procedures to which elevator
25 personnel are assigned in conformance with the requirements of
26 this act. This act establishes the minimum standards for
27 elevator personnel.

28 Section 103. Definitions.

29 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
30 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "ASCE." The American Society of Civil Engineers.

3 "ASME." The American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

4 "ASME QEI." The standards for the qualifications of elevator
5 inspectors drafted by the American Society of Mechanical
6 Engineers.

7 "Automated people mover." An installation defined as an
8 automated people mover in the safety code of ASCE numbered 21 or
9 any successor safety code of ASCE.

10 "Conveyance." An elevator, dumbwaiter, escalator, moving
11 sidewalk, platform lift, stairway chairlift, automated people
12 mover, vertical and reciprocating conveyors, belt manlifts and
13 aerial passenger ropeways.

14 "Department." The Department of Labor and Industry of the
15 Commonwealth.

16 "Elevator." An installation defined as an elevator in the
17 safety codes of ASME numbered A17.1, A17.3, A17.7 or A18.1 or
18 any successor safety code of ASME.

19 "Elevator contractor." A sole proprietor, firm or
20 corporation that is engaged in the business of erecting,
21 constructing, installing, altering, servicing, repairing or
22 maintaining elevators or related conveyances covered by this
23 act.

24 "Elevator mechanic." A person who is engaged in erecting,
25 constructing, installing, altering, servicing, repairing or
26 maintaining elevators or related conveyances covered by this
27 act.

28 "Escalator." An installation defined as an escalator in the
29 safety code of ASME numbered A17.1 or any successor safety code
30 of ASME.

1 "License." A written license, issued by the Department of
2 Labor and Industry, authorizing a person, sole proprietor, firm
3 or corporation to carry on the business of erecting,
4 constructing, installing, altering, servicing, repairing or
5 maintaining of elevators or related conveyances covered by this
6 act.

7 "Moving walk." An installation defined as a moving walk in
8 the safety code of ASME A17.1 or any successor code of ASME.

9 "Repair." A repair as defined in the standards of ASCE and
10 ASME.

11 CHAPTER 3

12 LICENSING

13 Section 301. License required.

14 (a) Elevator mechanic license.--

15 (1) No person shall erect, construct, alter, replace,
16 maintain, remove or dismantle any conveyance contained within
17 buildings or structures in this Commonwealth unless an
18 elevator mechanic license has been issued to the person as
19 described in this act, and the person is working under the
20 direct supervision of a sole proprietor, firm or corporation
21 that is an elevator contractor under this act.

22 (2) No person shall wire any conveyance from the
23 mainline feeder terminals on the controller in this
24 Commonwealth unless an elevator mechanic license has been
25 issued to the person as described in this act and the person
26 is working under the direct supervision of a sole proprietor,
27 firm or corporation that is an elevator contractor under this
28 act.

29 (3) No other license shall be required for work
30 described under this subsection.

1 (4) The direct supervision by a licensed elevator
2 contractor shall not be required to remove or dismantle
3 conveyances which are destroyed as a result of a complete
4 demolition of a secured building or structure or where the
5 hoistway or wellway is demolished back to the basic support
6 structure that does not permit access.

7 (b) Contractor license.--No person shall engage in the
8 business of erecting, constructing, installing, altering,
9 servicing, testing, repairing or maintaining elevators or
10 related conveyances covered by this act, unless a contractor
11 license has been issued as provided in this act.

12 (c) Nonapplicability.--This act shall not apply to equipment
13 described in ANSI MH29.1, Safety Requirements for Industrial
14 Scissor Lifts.

15 Section 302. Issuance and renewal of licenses.

16 (a) Issuance and renewal.--Upon approval of an application
17 by the department, the department may issue a license which
18 shall be renewable biennially. The fee for any renewal license
19 shall be set by the department.

20 (b) Emergencies.--

21 (1) Whenever an emergency exists in this Commonwealth
22 due to a disaster, an act of God or work stoppage and the
23 number of persons in this Commonwealth holding licenses
24 granted by the department is insufficient to cope with the
25 emergency, elevator contractors shall respond as necessary to
26 assure the safety of the public.

27 (2) Any person certified by a licensed elevator
28 contractor to have an acceptable combination of documented
29 experience and education to perform elevator work without
30 direct and immediate supervision shall seek an emergency

1 elevator mechanic license from the department within five
2 business days after commencing work requiring a license.

3 (3) The department shall issue emergency elevator
4 mechanic licenses.

5 (4) The elevator contractor shall furnish proof of
6 competency as the department may require.

7 (5) Each license is valid for a period of 45 days from
8 the date of issuance and for such particular elevators or
9 geographical areas as the department may designate and
10 otherwise shall entitle the licensee to the rights and
11 privileges of an elevator mechanic license issued under this
12 act.

13 (6) The department shall renew an emergency elevator
14 mechanic license during the existence of an emergency.

15 (7) No fee shall be charged for any emergency elevator
16 mechanic license or renewal license.

17 (c) Labor shortage.--

18 (1) An elevator contractor shall notify the department
19 when there are no licensed personnel available to perform
20 elevator work. The elevator contractor may request that the
21 department issue temporary elevator mechanic licenses to
22 persons certified by the licensed elevator contractor to have
23 an acceptable combination of documented experience and
24 education to perform elevator work without direct and
25 immediate supervision.

26 (2) Any person certified by an elevator contractor to
27 have an acceptable combination of documented experience and
28 education to perform elevator work without direct and
29 immediate supervision shall immediately seek a temporary
30 elevator mechanic license from the department and shall pay

1 such fee as the department shall determine.

2 (3) Each temporary license is valid for six months from
3 the date of issuance and while the person is employed by the
4 licensed elevator contractor that certified the person as
5 qualified. The temporary license shall be renewable as long
6 as the shortage of license holders shall continue.

7 (d) Continuing education.--

8 (1) The renewal of all licenses issued under this
9 section shall be conditioned upon the submission of a
10 certificate of completion of a course designed to ensure the
11 continuing education of licensees on new and existing
12 provisions of the regulations set forth by the department.

13 (2) The course shall consist of at least eight hours of
14 instruction that shall be attended and completed within one
15 year immediately preceding any such license renewal.

16 (e) Instruction.--

17 (1) The courses shall be taught by instructors through
18 continuing education providers that may include, but shall
19 not be limited to, association seminars and labor training
20 programs.

21 (2) The department shall approve the continuing
22 education providers. All instructors shall be approved by the
23 department and be exempt from the requirements of subsection
24 (d) with regard to their application for license renewal,
25 provided that such applicant was qualified as an instructor
26 at any time during the one year immediately preceding the
27 scheduled date for such renewal.

28 (f) Temporary disability.--

29 (1) A licensee who is unable to complete the continuing
30 education course required under this section prior to the

1 expiration of his license due to a temporary disability may
2 apply for a waiver from the department. The waiver shall be
3 on a form provided by the department, which shall be signed
4 under the penalty of perjury and accompanied by a certified
5 statement from a competent physician attesting to the
6 disability.

7 (2) Upon the termination of the temporary disability,
8 the licensee shall submit to the department a certified
9 statement from the same physician, if practicable, attesting
10 to the termination of the temporary disability.

11 (3) Upon this termination, a waiver sticker valid for 90
12 days shall be issued to the licensee and affixed to his
13 license.

14 (g) Attendance records for continuing education courses.--

15 (1) Approved training providers shall keep uniform
16 records, for a period of 10 years, of attendance of licensees
17 following a format approved by the department, and such
18 records shall be available for inspection by the department
19 at its request.

20 (2) Approved training providers shall maintain the
21 security of all attendance records and certificates of
22 completion, provided, however, that falsifying or knowingly
23 allowing another to falsify such attendance records or
24 certificates of completion shall constitute grounds for
25 suspension or revocation of the approval required under this
26 subsection.

27 Section 303. Application for elevator contractor or mechanic
28 license.

29 (a) Elevator contractor.--A sole proprietor, firm or
30 corporation wishing to engage in the business of conveyance

1 installation, alteration, service, replacement or maintenance
2 within this Commonwealth shall make application for a license
3 with the department on a form provided by the department.

4 (b) Elevator mechanic.--Any person wishing to engage in
5 conveyance installation, alteration, service, replacement or
6 maintenance within this Commonwealth shall make application for
7 a license with the department on a form provided by the
8 department.

9 (c) Contents of application.--The applications shall contain
10 information for the following provisions:

11 (1) If the applicant is an individual or sole
12 proprietor, the name, residence and business address of the
13 applicant.

14 (2) If the applicant is a partnership, the name,
15 residence and business address of each partner.

16 (3) If the applicant is a domestic corporation, the name
17 and business address of the corporation and the name and
18 residence address of the principal officer of the
19 corporation. If the applicant is a corporation other than a
20 domestic corporation, the corporation shall include the name
21 and address of its local agent who is to accept service of
22 process and official notices.

23 (4) The number of years the applicant has engaged in the
24 business of installing, maintaining or servicing elevators or
25 platform lifts.

26 (5) The approximate number of persons, if any, to be
27 employed by the elevator contractor applicant and, if
28 applicable, satisfactory evidence that the employees are or
29 will be covered by workers' compensation insurance.

30 (6) Satisfactory evidence that the applicant is or will

1 be covered by general liability, personal injury and property
2 damage insurance.

3 (7) Criminal record of convictions, if any, as verified
4 by the Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police or other
5 relevant law enforcement agency.

6 (8) Such other information as the department may
7 require.

8 Section 304. Qualifications.

9 (a) Elevator mechanics.--A mechanic license may not be
10 granted to any person who has failed to demonstrate the
11 qualifications and abilities required by this section.
12 Applicants for a mechanic license must demonstrate an acceptable
13 combination of documented experience and education credits,
14 including:

15 (1) Not less than three years' work experience in the
16 area of elevator industry, construction, maintenance, service
17 or repair, or any combination of those areas, as verified by
18 current and previous employers licensed to do business in
19 this Commonwealth.

20 (2) Satisfactory completion of a written examination
21 administered by the department on the most recent applicable
22 code and standard.

23 (b) Exceptions.--Any person shall be granted an elevator
24 mechanic license without satisfying the requirements of
25 subsection (a) by one of the following:

26 (1) Furnishing the department with acceptable proof that
27 the person has worked as an elevator constructor or
28 maintenance or repair person. Upon making application for a
29 license and paying the license fee, the person is entitled to
30 receive a license without an examination. The person must

1 have worked without direct and immediate supervision for an
2 elevator contractor licensed to do business in this
3 Commonwealth. This employment must not be less than three
4 years immediately prior to the effective date of this
5 section. A person seeking a license under the exception
6 outlined in this paragraph must make application within one
7 year of the effective date of this section.

8 (2) Obtaining a certificate of completion of an
9 apprenticeship for elevator mechanic program, having
10 standards substantially equal to those of this chapter and
11 registered with the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training of
12 the United States Department of Labor or the Pennsylvania
13 State Apprenticeship Council.

14 (3) Furnishing the department with acceptable proof of
15 holding a valid license from a state having standards
16 substantially equal to those of this act.

17 (c) Elevator contractor.--An authorized applicant for an
18 elevator contractor license must have in its employ no fewer
19 than one licensed elevator mechanic who performs the work
20 described in section 301(a).

21 (d) Reciprocity.--A license may be issued to an individual,
22 sole proprietor, partnership or domestic corporation holding a
23 valid license from a state having standards substantially equal
24 to those of this act, upon application.

25 Section 305. Hearing on charges and decision.

26 (a) Notice.--No license shall be suspended or revoked until
27 after a hearing before the department upon notice, served
28 personally or by registered mail, to the licensee of at least 10
29 days at the last known address appearing on the license. The
30 notice shall state the date, hour and place of the hearing and

1 include a statement of facts constituting the grounds for the
2 charges against the licensee.

3 (b) Decision.--The department shall suspend or revoke the
4 license upon good cause shown or dismiss the proceeding.

5 Section 306. Appeals.

6 A person, sole proprietor, firm or corporation whose license
7 is revoked or suspended may appeal from the determination to the
8 department. The department shall hold a hearing within 30 days
9 and provide 15 days' written notice to all interested parties.
10 Within 30 days after the hearing, the department shall issue a
11 decision.

12 Section 307. Practice without license prohibited.

13 (a) Offense defined.--It shall be unlawful for an individual
14 to hold himself out to the public as an elevator contractor or
15 elevator mechanic or to practice or offer to practice as an
16 elevator contractor or elevator mechanic, unless the individual
17 holds a valid, current license issued by the department.

18 (b) Penalty.--A person who violates this section commits a
19 misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon conviction, for
20 a first offense, be sentenced to a fine of not more than \$1,000
21 or to imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. A
22 second offense shall be subject to a fine of not more than
23 \$2,000 or imprisonment for a term of six months to one year, or
24 both.

25 CHAPTER 5

26 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

27 Section 501. Regulations.

28 The department shall promulgate regulations necessary to
29 implement this act.

30 Section 502. Construction.

1 Whenever a provision in this act is found to be inconsistent
2 with any provision of applicable laws, codes or regulations of
3 this Commonwealth, the provisions of this act shall prevail.
4 Unless specifically stated otherwise, this act is not intended
5 to establish more stringent or more restrictive standards than
6 standards specified in the applicable State law.

7 Section 503. Applicability.

8 (a) Private residence.--Nothing in this act shall apply to a
9 private residence.

10 (b) Certain lifting devices.--Nothing in this act shall
11 apply to a lifting device regulated under the act of October 9,
12 2008 (P.L.1363, No.100), known as the Crane Operator Licensure
13 Act, for which separate licensure is required.

14 Section 504. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect as follows:

16 (1) Section 301 shall take effect upon the effective
17 date of regulations promulgated by the department under
18 section 501 or in three years after the date of enactment,
19 whichever is earlier.

20 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect
21 immediately.