



Senate Bill 1320

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES REGARDING ACTING BUILDING OFFICIALS, CERTAIN PARKING SPACES AND ELEVATOR CERTIFICATES OF OPERATION

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Public Safety and Security Committee

February 18, 2025

Senator Gaston, Representative Boyd, Senator Cicarella, Representative Howard, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. We thank you for raising **Senate Bill 1320: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Administrative Services Regarding Acting Building Officials, Certain Parking Spaces and Elevator Certificates of Operation**.

Senate Bill 1320 offers several changes to various statutes to support municipalities, increase access to electric vehicle charging stations for persons with disabilities, and close a loophole regarding the safe operation of elevators.

Section 1 of the bill broadens municipal authority to appoint acting building officials. This proposal would allow municipalities to appoint an acting building official for any extended absence over 30 days in order to maintain continuity of services, improve customer experience and economic development and prevent project delays when the permanent building official is out of office.

Section 2 of the bill would allow the State Building Code to establish more generous sizes for accessible EV parking spaces than what is established in statute. State law sets forth a specific width and cross-hatch area for accessible parking spaces. However, the national model codes on which we base the Connecticut State Building Code include a width and cross hatch area larger than what state law sets forth for accessible parking spaces that include EV charging stations so persons with disabilities have enough space to maneuver around vehicles, the charging equipment and the parking area. Without this legislation, in the upcoming version of the State Building Code, Connecticut will have to amend the national code to be less accessible in order to comply with state law.

Section 3 improves elevator and escalator safety by statutorily preventing the renewal of a certificate of operation for elevators or escalators that have outstanding violations or have been deemed unfit for operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, and we urge passage of **Senate Bill 1320**.