



Senate Bill 369

AN ACT ESTABLISHING VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS REGARDING ELEVATORS

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Public Safety and Security Committee

March 5, 2026

Senator Gaston, Representative Boyd, Senator Cicarella, Representative Howard, and distinguished Public Safety and Security Committee members. I am Michelle Gilman, Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), and I am joined today by the State Building Inspector, Omarys Vasquez. We thank you for the opportunity to testify on **Senate Bill 369: An Act Establishing Various Requirements Regarding Elevators**, which, among other provisions, requires DAS to be designated as the enforcement agency responsible for ensuring compliance with newly established requirements for residential elevator buildings.

DAS and the Office of the State Building Inspector (OSBI) appreciate the intent of this bill to ensure safety and reliable elevator access; however, we are concerned that the bill would create a significant new statewide enforcement framework, requiring additional staff and funding that is not included in the Governor's proposed FY 27 budget adjustment.

For instance, Section 1(f)(5) would mandate that the department relocate tenants at the owner's expense if it is determined that such relocation is necessary due to the owner's violation of subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of this section. Historically, tenant relocation has not been the State's responsibility. For DAS to take on this new role, it would require, at a minimum, new legal and administrative personnel.

DAS and OSBI again want to express support for the intended purpose of this bill, and we have been advocating for a solution to inoperable elevators. The 2026 Connecticut State Building Code is anticipated to adopt statewide changes effective July 1, 2026, including sections addressing unsafe structures and equipment (§116), which empower municipal building officials to enforce unsafe conditions, issue notices, require abatement, and impose penalties under their municipal authority.

Under the proposed updates to the State Building Code, municipal building officials would work with licensed elevator maintenance contractors — who already diagnose issues and determine

when state-witnessed tests are necessary — to ensure safe operations without duplicating or overloading existing DAS responsibilities.

We are happy to continue working collaboratively with the committee to ensure safe, accessible elevator standards for all residents, and we would be pleased to meet with committee members to discuss your perspectives and explore solutions. Thank you for your attention and consideration.