

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 299](#)

TITLE: Elevator Accessibility Requirements

SPONSOR(S): Woodson

COMPANION BILL: [SB 960](#) (Bernard)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Industries & Professional Activities](#)

17 Y, 0 N



[Commerce](#)

25 Y, 0 N

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill specifies that only one interior support rail in an elevator must be continuous and at least 42 inches long, instead of requiring all interior support rails in an elevator to meet these requirements.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may result in more interior support rails in elevators, which could reduce injuries.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill specifies that only one [interior support rail](#) in an [elevator](#) must be continuous and at least 42 inches long, instead of requiring all interior support rails in an elevator to meet these requirements. (Section [1](#))

Interior support rails will still have to meet the other current law requirements regardless if they are 42 inches long and continuous.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#))

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Elevator Regulation

The Elevator Safety Act, located in ch. 399, F.S., establishes the minimum standards for elevator personnel in order “to provide for the safety of life and limb and to promote public safety awareness”.¹ The Elevator Safety Act broadly defines the term “[elevator](#)” to include:²

- Hoisting Mechanical Devices;
- Escalators;
- Dumbwaiters;
- Moving Walks;
- Inclined Stairway Chairlifts; and
- Inclined or Vertical Wheelchair Lifts.

¹ S. [399.001, F.S.](#)

² S. [399.01\(6\), F.S.](#)

The Division of Hotels and Restaurants (Division) within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation has both rulemaking and enforcement authority under ch. 399, F.S. The Division is also responsible for issuing elevator permits and certificates of operation for companies or individuals to install, service or inspect elevators.³

The Elevator Safety Act prohibits an elevator from being “erected, constructed, installed or altered” until a permit is issued from DBPR. The Act further requires each elevator to have a certificate of operation from the DBPR before being operated.⁴

[Interior Support Rails](#)

The Elevator Safety Act requires every elevator, except elevators in private residences, to have at least one support rail to assist persons with physical handicaps.⁵

Support rails must be continuous and have a minimum length of 42 inches. Support rails must also be:⁶

- Smooth and have no sharp edges;
- Not more than 1.5 inches thick or 2.5 inches in diameter;
- Between 31-33 inches off the ground; and
- 1.5 inches from the elevator’s wall.

Currently, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not require handrails in elevators. If handrails are provided in an elevator, they are not required to comply with the ADA’s requirements for handrails.⁷

OTHER RESOURCES:

[U.S. Access Board: Guide to the ADA Accessibility Standards](#)

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee	17 Y, 0 N	3/12/2025	Anstead	Brackett
Commerce Committee	25 Y, 0 N	3/24/2025	Hamon	Brackett

³ S. [399.10, F.S.](#)

⁴ S. [399.03\(1\) and \(5\)](#), F.S.

⁵ Ss. [399.02](#), and [399.035, F.S.](#)

⁶ S. [399.035, F.S.](#)

⁷ U.S. Access Board, *Guide to the ADA Accessibility Standards*, <https://www.access-board.gov/ada/guides/chapter-4-elevators-and-platform-lifts/#are-handrails-required-in-elevator-cars> (last visited March 21, 2025).