

H.687

Introduced by Representatives O'Brien of Richmond, Botzow of Pownal,
Burke of Brattleboro, Evans of Essex, French of Shrewsbury,
Lenes of Shelburne, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of
Williston, Spengler of Colchester, Till of Jericho, Wheeler of
Derby and Winters of Williamstown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Internal security and public safety; accessibility standards for public
buildings and parking; exemptions

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to clarify that vertical lifts or
limited use-limited access elevators may be used to provide vertical access in
public buildings unless a full passenger elevator is required by federal law.

An act relating to accessibility standards for public buildings

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2903 is amended to read:

§ 2903. EXEMPTIONS

(a) The following are exempt from the provisions of this chapter, unless
compliance with access standards is required by federal law:

1 (1) alterations to privately funded and operated dwelling units consisting
2 of two or more stories within a single dwelling unit. This exemption shall not
3 apply to alterations of dwelling units which are operated by state or local
4 government or units that receive federal financial assistance to alter the unit or
5 to provide rental assistance to an altered unit;

6 (2) apartments or rooming houses, cooperatives, condominiums, and
7 other residential buildings consisting of three living units or less;

8 (3) alterations to the dwelling unit in a public building in which the
9 owner of the public building resides.

10 (b) Unless required by federal law, dwelling units which consist of three
11 stories or less and two- or three-story retail establishments with a total of
12 15,000 square feet or less shall be exempt from any requirements pertaining to
13 the installation of elevators. All other multistory buildings shall be provided
14 with vertical access unless the building is exempted from this requirement
15 pursuant to a rule of the access board. Unless a full passenger elevator is
16 required by federal law, platform lifts and limited use-limited access elevators
17 shall be considered acceptable means of providing vertical access.

18 (c) Unless required by federal law, any single dwelling unit of two or more
19 stories within a building consisting of four or more dwelling units is not
20 required to have a vertical access within the dwelling unit provided that five
21 percent of the dwelling units or one unit, whichever is greater, has an

- 1 accessible entrance, and all the dwelling units meet or exceed the minimum
- 2 standards required in section 2907 of this title.