

Testimony Regarding SB 181

House Federal and State Affairs Committee

Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal

January 19, 2022

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to appear here today and present informational testimony on SB 181. SB 181 would create the Elevator Safety Act relating to elevator and escalator safety standards, licensure of inspection, and installation and repair. It provides the duties of the State Fire Marshals Office (OSFM) and creates the Elevator Safety Fee Fund.

The bill was introduced by the elevator industry. Our office worked with the industry last session on the bill, with all being in agreement with the bill as passed out of committee. At the last minute, an amendment was added to each section of the bill exempting cities and counties. It is our estimate that the amendments would exempt 90% or more of the elevators/escalators in the state from this initiative. Without the ability of our office to issue certifications for those existing elevators/escalators or issue construction/installation certifications on new elevators/escalators there is no way the expenses our office would incur to start and oversee the program would be covered by the Act.

The small remaining number of elevators/escalators does not justify the need for the legislation.

Our office cannot support the bill in its current form and asks the committee not to move it forward.