



HOUSE BILL 559: Make Elevators Great Again.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 19, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Howard, Setzer, Gillespie, K. Hall	Prepared by:	Trina Griffin
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 559 would do the following:*

- *Increase the maximum caps for fees that may be charged by the Department of Labor, with authority to make annual inflationary adjustments, for the inspection of elevators, amusement devices, and passenger tramways as well as make other fee modifications.*
- *Provide regulatory flexibility by allowing the Commissioner of Labor to waive or amend the American National Safety Standards applicable to the qualifications of inspectors to the extent the Commissioner sets alternative standards that are reasonably equivalent.*
- *Require the NC Department of Labor to consult with the NC Community College System to develop an in-house training and apprenticeship program for elevator inspectors.*

CURRENT LAW:

The maximum fee that may be charged for the inspection and issuance of certificates of operation for the devices listed below is \$200. The last time the fee was changed was in 2001. The devices subject to this fee are:

- Elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, and moving walks
- Personnel hoists
- Inclined stairway chair lifts
- Inclined and vertical wheelchair lifts
- Manlifts
- Special equipment

The maximum fee that may be charged for the for the inspection and issuance of certificates of operation of amusement devices¹, such as roller coasters, waterslides, and go-karts, is \$250. The last time the fee was changed was in 2001.

¹ Amusement devices are defined as "Any mechanical or structural device or attraction that carries or conveys or permits persons to walk along, around or over a fixed or restricted route or course or within a defined area including the entrances and exits thereto, for the purpose of giving such persons amusement, pleasure, thrills or excitement" but does not include (a) devices operated on a river, lake, or any other natural body of water; (b) wave pools; (c) roller skating rinks; (d) ice skating rinks; (e) skateboard ramps or courses; (f) mechanical bulls; (g) buildings or concourses used in laser games; (h) all-terrain vehicles; (i) motorcycles; (j) bicycles; (k) mopeds; (l) rock walls that are in a fixed, permanent location; (m) zip lines; (n) funhouses, haunted houses, and similar walk through devices that are erected temporarily on a seasonal basis and do not have mechanical components; (o) playground equipment, including but not limited to soft contained play equipment, swings, seesaws, slides, stationary spring mounted animal features, jungle gyms, rider propelled merry go rounds, and trampolines; (p) any train or device previously or currently approved for use on the public rail transit system; (q) inflatable devices, including any air supported device made of flexible fabric, inflated by one or more blowers, that relies upon air pressure to maintain its shape.

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The maximum fee that may be charged for the for the inspection and issuance of certificates of operation of passenger tramways, which include gondolas, chairlifts, inclined conveyors, and rope tows, is \$137. The last time the fee was changed was in 2005.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Fee Modifications - Section 1 of the bill would do the following with respect to fees:

- Create new fee schedules for the various devices inspected and certified for operation by the Department of Labor with the maximum amount varying depending on the type of device or inspection.
- Provide that these maximum amounts would be adjusted annually for inflation, beginning on and after July 1, 2026, in accordance with the percent change in the annual Consumer Price Index computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using the most recent 12-month period. The Department must give 60 days' notice of fee increases on its website.
- Create a new fee of up to \$1,000 for expedited inspections of elevators/escalators and amusement devices.
- Establish a new or alteration construction permit application fee to be the greater of \$200 or 1% of the contract price for the alteration or construction of the device being permitted.
- Expressly provide that unexpended fees at the end of the fiscal year do not revert.

Regulatory Flexibility – Section 2 of the bill would authorize the Commissioner of Labor to waive or amend the American National Safety Standards relating to the qualifications of inspectors of elevators/escalators and amusement devices if the Commissioner sets alternative standards that are reasonably equivalent.

Training & Apprenticeship Program – Section 3 of the bill would require the Department of Labor to consult with the NC Community College System to develop and in-house training and apprenticeship program for elevator inspectors and to utilize the Program to fill vacancies within the Elevator and Amusement Device Division of the Department.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The fee increases would be effective July 1, 2025, and the remainder of the bill would be effective when it becomes law.