

NEUTRAL TESTIMONY for SB 2336

PRESENTED BY JAMES SCHMIDT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD

Chairman Warrey and Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

I am James Schmidt, executive director for the North Dakota State Electrical Board with neutral testimony for Senate Bill 2336.

Last May 2024 the board office was approached by the Elevator Industry Work Preservation and International Union of Elevator Constructors asking if our office would consider performing conveyance (elevators, escalators, dumb waiters etc.) inspections in North Dakota. We were told there are only two states in the United States that do not require conveyance (elevators and the like) inspections and ND was one of them.

Currently our electrical inspectors inspect the power disconnect for the conveyance equipment and that's where electrical inspections end. When a new elevator is installed in North Dakota our office does require it is to be registered with our office but that is all the law currently requires in ND. As such, no formal inspection is carried out on the conveyance equipment, such as the personnel cab or car, elevator shaft, fire alarm interface, controls etc. Further, ND law does not provide for scheduled annual follow-up inspections, as are required in other states.

Our agency doesn't receive any money from the state general fund and with the reserves we have, if this legislative body thinks SB 2336 is a good idea, it would be possible for us to employ a conveyance industry expert to inspect conveyance installations.

By administrative rule we could adopt standard industry conveyance codes and come up with a reasonable inspection fee to cover the cost

of those inspections. We would ensure the conveyance equipment complies with standards already set forth in that industry.

Again, if this legislative body thinks SB 2336 a good thing to do in the state, our board will support this and we will take it on; if not, that's ok too.

I thank the bill sponsors and this committee for hearing my comments and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.