

Emergency Evacuation Plans for People with Disabilities

This Act directs that by January 1, 2004, every high-rise building owner must establish and maintain an emergency evacuation plan for disabled occupants of the building who have notified the owner of their need for assistance. As used in the Act, "high-rise building" means any building 80 feet or more in height. The owner is responsible for maintaining and updating the plan as necessary to ensure that the plan continues to comply with the provisions of the Act. It exempts municipalities with more than 1,000,000 people and which already have ordinances establishing emergency procedures for high-rise buildings.

Submitted as:

Illinois

Public Act 92-0705

Status: Enacted into law in 2002.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act may be cited as "An Act to Establish Emergency
2 Evacuation Plans in High-Rise Buildings for People with Disabilities."
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4 Section 2. [*Scope.*] This Act does not apply within a municipality with a population of
5 over [1,000,000] that, before the effective date of this Act, has adopted an ordinance
6 establishing emergency procedures for high-rise buildings.
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8 Section 3. [*Required Emergency Evacuation Plan for People with Disabilities.*] By
9 [January 1, 2004], every high-rise building owner must establish and maintain an emergency
10 evacuation plan for disabled occupants of the building who have notified the owner of their need
11 for assistance. As used in this Act, "high-rise building" means any building [80] feet or more in
12 height. The owner is responsible for maintaining and updating the plan as necessary to ensure
13 that the plan continues to comply with the provisions of this Act.
14

15 Section 4. [*Plan Requirements.*]

16 (a) Each plan must establish procedures for evacuating people with disabilities from the
17 building in the event of an emergency, when those people have notified the owner of their need
18 for assistance.

19 (b) Each plan must provide for a list to be maintained of people who have notified the
20 owner that they are disabled and would require special assistance in the event of an emergency.
21 The list must include the unit, office, or room number location that the disabled person occupies
22 in the building. It is the intent of this Act that these lists must be maintained for the sole
23 purpose of emergency evacuation. The lists may not be used or disseminated for any other
24 purpose.

25 (c) The plan must provide for a means to notify occupants of the building that a list
26 identifying people with a disability in need of emergency evacuation assistance is maintained by
27 the owner, and the method by which occupants can place their name on the list.

28 (d) In hotels and motels, each plan must provide an opportunity for a guest to identify
29 himself or herself as a person with a disability in need of emergency evacuation assistance.

30 (e) The plan must identify the location and type of any evacuation assistance devices or
31 assistive technologies that are available in the building. If the plan provides for areas of rescue
32 assistance, the plan must provide that these areas are to be identified by signs that state "Area of
33 Rescue Assistance" and display the international symbol of accessibility. Lettering must be
34 permanent and must comply with "Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines."

35 (f) Each plan must include recommended procedures to be followed by building
36 employees, tenants, or guests to assist people with disabilities in need of emergency evacuation
37 assistance.

38 (g) A copy of the plan must be maintained at all times in a place that is easily accessible
39 by law enforcement or fire safety personnel, such as in the management office of the high-rise
40 building, at the security desk, or in the vicinity of the fireman's elevator recall key, the life
41 safety panel, or the fire pump room.

42

43 Section 5. [*Implementation.*]

44 (a) The plan must be made available to local law enforcement and fire safety personnel
45 upon request.

46 (b) The plan must provide the names of and contact information regarding any building
47 personnel to be contacted by law enforcement or fire safety personnel in the event of an
48 emergency requiring implementation of the plan.

49 (c) The plan must provide for dissemination or availability of the appropriate evacuation
50 procedures portions of the plan to building employees, tenants, or guests.

51 (d) The plan must identify the roles and responsibilities of building personnel in carrying
52 out the evacuation plan. The plan must provide for appropriate training for building personnel
53 regarding their roles and responsibilities.

54 (e) The plan must provide for drills regarding evacuation procedures not less than once
55 per year. A written record of the date of the drill must be kept with the evacuation plan.

56

57 Section 6. [*Penalty.*] Failure to comply with any Section of this Act is a [petty offense]
58 punishable by a fine of [\$500].

59

60 Section 7. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

61

62 Section 8. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

63

64 Section 9. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]