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.)

Section 1. [Short Title.] This Act may be cited as “An Act to Establish Emergency Evacuation Plans in High-Rise Buildings for People with Disabilities.”

Section 2. [Scope.] This Act does not apply within a municipality with a population of over [1,000,000] that, before the effective date of this Act, has adopted an ordinance establishing emergency procedures for high-rise buildings.

Section 3. [Required Emergency Evacuation Plan for People with Disabilities.] 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 this 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 this Act.

Section 4. [Plan Requirements.]
(a) Each plan must establish procedures for evacuating people with disabilities from the building in the event of an emergency, when those people have notified the owner of their need for assistance.
(b) Each plan must provide for a list to be maintained of people who have notified the owner that they are disabled and would require special assistance in the event of an emergency. The list must include the unit, office, or room number location that the disabled person occupies in the building. It is the intent of this Act that these lists must be maintained for the sole purpose of emergency evacuation. The lists may not be used or disseminated for any other purpose.
(c) The plan must provide for a means to notify occupants of the building that a list identifying people with a disability in need of emergency evacuation assistance is maintained by the owner, and the method by which occupants can place their name on the list.
In hotels and motels, each plan must provide an opportunity for a guest to identify himself or herself as a person with a disability in need of emergency evacuation assistance.

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

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

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

Section 5. [Implementation.]
(a) The plan must be made available to local law enforcement and fire safety personnel upon request.
(b) The plan must provide the names of and contact information regarding any building personnel to be contacted by law enforcement or fire safety personnel in the event of an emergency requiring implementation of the plan.
(c) The plan must provide for dissemination or availability of the appropriate evacuation procedures portions of the plan to building employees, tenants, or guests.
(d) The plan must identify the roles and responsibilities of building personnel in carrying out the evacuation plan. The plan must provide for appropriate training for building personnel regarding their roles and responsibilities.
(e) The plan must provide for drills regarding evacuation procedures not less than once per year. A written record of the date of the drill must be kept with the evacuation plan.

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

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

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

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