



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Comments on Senate Bill 572 – Relating to Condominiums

The following summarizes my oral comments made at the public hearing on February 17, 2009 relating to Senate Bill 572.

1. A recommendation was made to add a definition of person with a disability to match the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) recommends using the definition in the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act since this is a housing issue. The definition is as follows:

“a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities; a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment.”
2. A recommendation was made to designate an elderly affairs office to conduct a functional assessment of a resident to determine the resident's ability to live independently. DCAB recommends not naming a specific government agency as no single agency is appropriate. The bill as written, simply allows the Board to request an assessment and allows them to use an elderly service agency, mental health agency, disability service organization, veterans organization, home health agency, or any other appropriate agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to summarize my comments on Senate Bill 572.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director