

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 29, 2006 LB 489

the oversight is required. I supported this bill. I will tell you how come I did support it. And while I do rise in support of Senator Synowiecki's amendment and Senator Mines' amendment, AM2934, the bill came to my attention because I had visited a pharmacy several years ago. And while I was at the pharmacy, the pharmacy was telling me about, there are people in this state that are selling what they call those scooters that our senior citizens will buy and use. Now you might want to say, how come this bill, the elevator bill, has anything to do with scooters? You might ask that. But what's happening is that there are people that are selling these seniors scooters that are not fitted to that senior, they're not usable. The senior pays for the device and it's not usable to them. The original iteration of this bill said that it applied to chair lifts or platform lifts largely used by seniors. I see that it is exempted out of here. But the bill piqued my curiosity because we have a segment of our society who are, in my opinion, being fleeced by the installation or the sale of certain devices that are basically, as Senator Synowiecki mentioned, are junk. I understand sometimes you have to get what you can get. Senator Brashear is always saying don't let perfection be the enemy of good. And I think that's what this amendment does. I wish it would apply to chair lifts and platform lifts as well. And I understand Senator Synowiecki taking that out. But frankly, what we have is an unlicensed industry that is installing these devices and there's no regulation whatsoever. I have churches in my district, as Senator Synowiecki mentioned, who have had to put these devices in because of the ADA requirements. And basically, you have an elevator that is useless. I think it makes sense that there are certain minimal standards. I looked at the underlying bill, the committee statement, and it's amazing to me that people can come, people who actually install elevators can come to our hearing rooms and testify with a straight face that no regulation is needed. Well, there's a reason for that. And I'm a supporter of the bill. There are people that are getting ripped off every day in our state because of the lack of regulation in this area. I commend Senator Synowiecki for doing this. I support the bill. I don't understand how it's a union bill. To me, it's a consumer protection bill for those consumers, our citizens, who can't protect themselves. That's what our job is, to protect them.