

COMMITTEE REPORT

SENATE

4/20/76

Mr. President:

Date 4/20/76

The Committee on Finance has had one bill
Elimination of architectural barriers for handicapped, aged or infirm persons
under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

- recommends it DO PASS
- recommends it DO NOT PASS
- recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)
- recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR _____ AND THAT
CS FOR _____ DO PASS
- "and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____
COMMITTEE
- reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION
- "other"

Members signing the Majority report:

Bill Ray _____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

_____ recommends:
 _____ recommends:
 _____ recommends:
 _____ recommends:
 _____ recommends:

Bill Ray Chairman

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

POUCH Z—JUNEAU 99811
(TELEX 45-328)

April 27, 1976

The Honorable Bill Ray
Alaska Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Ray:

My staff has made a cursory review of Sponsor Substitute for Senate Bill No. 201, as you requested of Mr. Saylor. The bill would require the Department of Public Works to hire at least four inspectors and three clerks to prepare, promulgate and enforce regulations governing the construction of public facilities. This is estimated to cost \$150,000 per year.

The bill further states that no public building or facility shall be planned, designed, financed, etc. unless it meets these standards. This would require the Department of Public Works to establish a state wide plan review service, which we estimate could require an engineering staff of seven for an additional cost of \$250,000.

We had budgeted for FY 74-75 a cost of approximately \$30 million to comply with Architectural Barrier and OSHA requirements. Of this total, we estimate that the Architectural Barrier conformance would cost \$22.5 million.

We recommend that the Department of Public Works accomplish a review of all public buildings by contract and present the results of this review and a cost estimate to the next session of the legislature. It is estimated that this detailed review would cost \$200,000 as there are at least 2,000 facilities involved.

Enclosed is a letter from the American Institute of Architects stating that any changes to the code be postponed until the American National Standard Institute's specifications are updated.

Sincerely,


Donald Harris
Commissioner

Enclosure



ALASKA CHAPTER THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

20 April 1976

CODES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Donald Harris, Commissioner
Department of Public Works
State of Alaska
Pouch Z
Juneau, Alaska 99811

BUILDING CODE PROVISIONS FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Dear Mr. Harris:

The American Institute of Architects and its Alaska Chapter for many years have been concerned with the removal and prevention of barriers to the handicapped in our built environment. Members of the Alaska Chapter supported the original state legislation which requires access for the handicapped to all public building of the state and its political subdivisions.

Enclosed is a photocopy of a 4 March 1976 memorandum from James R. Dowling, Director, Codes and Standards Center, The American Institute of Architects concerning revisions underway to the American National Standard Institute's "Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, the Physically Handicapped" (A117.1-1961.) This document is the one referred to in AS 35.10.015 "Architectural Barrier Regulations".

We respectfully suggest that any proposed revisions to Alaska statutes and the Alaska Administrative Code concerning barriers to the handicapped be postponed, if possible, until the revised ANSI standard has been published. This will allow all national, state and local building codes to use one document as the basis

By separate letter I am advising the sponsors of HB 225 and SB 201 of the correct title of A 117.1.

Cordially

EARL FULLINGIM aia
Chairman
Codes and Standards Committee
841 I Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

PLEASE REPLY TO.

cc Francis S.L. Williamson, Commissioner HSS
Edmund N. Orbeck, Commissioner of Labor
Richard L. Burton, Commissioner of
Public Safety
William H. Race, Director
Division of Buildings
Ronald A. Hendrie, Fire Marshal
Everett Simpson, State Architect
Michael Plunkett AIA, President
Alaska Chapter AIA



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 4, 1976

To: Chairpersons, AIA Component Codes and Standards Committees

From: James R. Dowling, Director, Codes and Regulations Center


Subject: Building Code Provisions For The Physically Handicapped

Copies: Members, Commission on Professional Practice, AIA National Codes and Standards Committee, AIA Task Force on Barrier Free Policy, Messrs. de Moll, McGinty, Slayton, Scheeler, Petrazio, Barker, Payne and Glover

The attached information is provided for your guidance with local building code authorities who may be contemplating revising their code to include new or up-dated requirements for the physically handicapped. Numerous jurisdictions throughout the United States are, and have been, referencing the old 1961 ANSI Standard A117.1 which has become obsolete and does not satisfactorily answer the needs of the handicapped. The standard is currently being revised by Syracuse University which is explained in the attached article that appeared in the February 1976 issue of the AIA Journal.

Twenty nine code changes were introduced to amend the BOCA Basic Building Code in 1976 and all have been deferred pending publication of the revised ANSI standard. A copy of the testimony provided the BOCA Code Changes Committee is also attached. Therefore, we are requesting you to use your influence to delay any local action in your area until the new standard becomes available. It is the only way total uniform code provisions can be achieved for the handicapped.

This position has been endorsed by the AIA Task Force on Barrier Free Policy, the National Center for a Barrier Free Environment and the National Barrier Free Design Committee of the President's Committee for the Employment of the Physically Handicapped.

JRD/fa 

Enclosures

RECEIVED MAR 18 1976

REPORT



National Center
for a
Barrier Free
Environment

Volume 2/Number 1

Washington, D.C.
January, 1976

200 ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING

The National Center for a Barrier Free Environment held its first annual meeting on November 7 in Louisville, Kentucky, as the morning session of an all-day "Forums of Exchange on Developing a Barrier-Free Environment," with about 200 persons attending.

The conference was held in connection with the annual convention of one of the Center's founding members, the National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults. Co-sponsors also included another founding member, the American Institute of Architects, the American and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, and Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Building Codes
"Codes and standards can be an effective tool in bringing about mandatory barrier-free provisions," stated James R. Dowling, director, Code and Regulations Center, American Institute of Architects. "But despite the extensive adoption of uniform model building codes, major cities, with a few notable exceptions, seem determined to go their own way."

The five model building codes are: three "general interest" — BOCA (Building Officials and Code Administrators International), ICBO (International Conference of Building Officials), and SBCC (Southern Building Code Congress), and two "special limited interest" — American Insurance Association and National Fire Protection Association.

Participation in writing or updating model codes is open to the public, and anyone can submit a code change so long as he can substantiate or document the need for the change. Mr. Dowling stressed the need to lessen the fragmentation among groups representing the physically disabled when presenting proposals for code changes, and for such groups to agree on proposed code changes before submission.

Some provisions for the physically handicapped were approved for incorporation in the 1975 BOCA basic code. Comparable changes proposed to the ICBO and Southern codes were reviewed at final hearings in the fall of 1975 and are expected to be published in their 1976 editions.

James S. Matthei, secretary of the National Easter Seal Society and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center in 1975, reported to the Board of Directors on the Board's activities.

Chairman of the conference was Edward H. ...

Editorial

A SINGLE STANDARD

Because the movement to eliminate architectural barriers brings together a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations, the joint progress achieved will depend in large measure on our speaking the same language in terms of a single standard of accessibility.

A long-standing problem has been the needless confusion caused by conflicting codes. With the development of the new ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standard, providing clear prescriptive data based upon thorough research using handicapped subjects, the opportunity will exist for a uniform approach to all codes and regulations, whether local, state or national.

Existing legislation that is founded on the original ANSI standard should automatically incorporate the revised standard. Other agencies that may have adopted differing codes in the interim must be encouraged to bring their standards into conformity with the new ANSI standard.

The virtue of the ANSI standard will be twofold. First is its detailed content, which is essential to the practicing architect and builder who must deal with the subtle complexities of accessible design. Equally important is the broad base of support which ANSI develops through its traditional process of review and approval by advisory panels before it is adopted.

To fulfill the national function for which it is planned, the ANSI standard must be clear, complete and comprehensive. It must deal with the actual needs both of today's handicapped population and of those, perhaps more severely disabled, who may be seeking access to the community resources of the future. This is a large demand to make, but we feel the ANSI project now underway at Syracuse University School of Architecture is on the way to achieving it.

Matthei, AIA, secretary of the National Easter Seal Society and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center in 1975.

Excerpts from these presentations and those made at the afternoon Open Forum are on pages 3-6.

Founding Members

American Institute of Architects
Disabled American Veterans
Gallaudet College
Goodwill Industries of America, Inc.
National Congress of Organizations
of the Physically Handicapped

National Easter Seal Society for
Crippled Children and Adults
National Paraplegia Foundation
National Rehabilitation Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc.
President's Committee on Employment
of the Handicapped

Editor
Edmond J. Leonard
President's Committee on Employment
of the Handicapped

Special Article
**From Problem to Solution:
 The New Focus in Fighting Environmental Barriers
 For the Handicapped**
 RITA MCGAUGHEY
 A DISTINCT CHA...

SPECIAL ARTICLE

sponsored conference in Louisville. Unfortunately, a clear distinction of areas for sharing data from the two BRAD projects and the HUD-sponsored project being conducted at Syracuse was not identified as hoped for at the Conference.

In Building Codes as well as Standards, changes are being proposed to insure accessibility of persons with handicaps in buildings across the country. Some of the provisions for the physically handicapped approved for incorporation in the 1975 basic code of BOCA (Building Officials and Code Administrators) included such requirements as:

- 1) One-bedroom unit for every 25 units in (residential, hotel) buildings be made accessible to the physically handicapped.
- 2) Reserved parking space of not less than 12 feet in width be available and identified by signs as reserved for physically handicapped persons.
- 3) Curbs be cut with a gradient of not more than one foot in 16 feet and a width of not less than 4 feet for wheelchair access.
- 4) Where a public or pay phone is installed, 5 percent or not less than one telephone have dial, coin slot, and handset not more than 54 inches above the ground.

Representing the American Institute of Architects Codes and Regulations Center at the November, 1975, Easter Seal conference, James R. Dowling, director of the Center, chided representatives of organizations serving the handicapped for the fragmentation of their efforts to strengthen accessibility provisions in Building Codes. He urged the group to develop proposed changes in concert with all affected parties prior to submission to a particular code. "Building officials," says Mr. Dowling, "have been sympathetic to establishing requirements for the handicapped over the years and the best way to achieve that 'approved vote' is through teamwork and a unified approach."

Fragmentation, a force tending to negate the marked progress being made in the movement to eliminate barriers, is the chief concern of the National Center for a Barrier Free Environment, established in 1974 to coordinate and advance the myriad of barrier-elimination programs carried out by an increasing number of organizations each year. Founded by the American Institute of Architects, the National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the National Center is open to all concerned with environmental barriers. Greeting some 200 registrants at the Center's first annual meeting held in connection with the 1975 Easter Seal Confer-

ence in Louisville, Edward H. Nozler, a Washington architect who serves as President, advised the broad spectrum of individuals and organizations represented in the Center's membership that any progress achieved "in our interdependent efforts will depend in large measure upon our speaking the same language."

Still another school of thought holds to the notion that, given heterogeneous approaches to a multitude of tasks, the best product will surface. Clearly, an interesting philosophical issue to debate.

The case for uniformity is strongly supported by a special Task Force on Barrier-Free Design established in 1974 by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). In the interest of maintaining uniformity of barrier-free design standards and achieving their widest acceptance, this AIA Task Force is keeping a close eye on the Standards Revision Project being conducted at Syracuse and hopes to recommend approval by the Institute and the adoption of the new Standards when they become available. Still to be faced is the challenge of preserving the uniformity in legislation that was achieved in the 1960's when the first ANSI Standards for Accessibility were adopted as base lines for architectural barriers laws throughout the nation.

Given the relentless efforts which abound at this time to accelerate the movement for a barrier-free environment, it is understandable that the standard for accessibility of the physically disabled is the focus for making codes and laws reflect the new climate of support. Fortunately, unlike the stone tablets of Biblical fame, the process for amending the standard is flexible to the changing climate—a requisite for any tool emerging for solving the barrier problem. A widespread resolve to create better solutions in future years can be predicted with confidence as changing social attitudes. Perhaps, then, the biggest boon to the movement is the coming together of designers and users to deal openly with the problem, thus insuring solutions that are in harmony with the times.

List of References

1. Rueslorn, Herbert. An Alternative to the Therapeutic Model in Therapeutic Recreation. *Therapeutic Recreation J.* First quarter, 1973. 7:1:8-15. p. 12.
2. Syracuse University. School of Architecture. *Access: The State of the Art, Vol. 1.* Edward Steinfeld, project director. March, 1975. Unpublished.
3. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Office of Policy Development and Research. *Interim Report: Barrier-Free Access to the Man-Made Environment—A Review of Current Literature*, by Edward Steinfeld, project director, School of Architecture, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. Washington, D.C.: The Dept., Oct., 1975. HUD-PDR-122.

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REHABILITATION LITERATURE

Delay Asked in Change On Barrier-Free Code

AIA's task force on barrier-free policy has recommended to the Building Officials and Code Administrators International that BOCA wait a year before incorporating into its building code proposed revisions aimed at making structures more accessible to the physically handicapped. Despite BOCA's "intense effort" and the fact that structures built in the meantime will be less than fully satisfactory to the handicapped, the task force urges delay in BOCA changes in order to achieve a single, universal set of standards, thus "ending an era of proliferation of different standards."

Over the years, BOCA has included in its code provisions that were intended to make buildings more accessible, but, says James R. Dowling, director of AIA's codes and regulations center, "The requirements were based on an obsolete national standard, and the provisions were less than satisfactory. Recognizing the need for updated and improved provisions, a BOCA committee has held preliminary hearings to review and evaluate 29 suggested changes that pertain to the accessibility of buildings." BOCA membership will consider these changes at its annual meeting in June and will come to a decision about their inclusion in the BOCA 1976 code.

The suggestion by AIA's task force on barrier-free policy that BOCA wait a year before making changes is due to the fact that work on the revision of the American National Standard Institute's "Specification for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, the Physically Handicapped" (A117.1-1961) is in progress and should be completed in 1976.

The work on the ANSI revised standard has been conducted at Syracuse University under a \$256,000 contract awarded by HUD.

The purpose is to replace the old A117.1 with a standard that will cover residential as well as public buildings. HUD, says ANSI, "plans to apply the resulting standard to single and multifamily dwellings financed under Federal Housing Administration-insured loans." The 1961 A117.1 is termed by ANSI as "one of the most widely used" of its standards, and it is incorporated, in whole or in part, "in the codes of all 50 states and referenced by many federal agencies." Research at Syracuse on a new standard has included exhaustive tests conducted under the leadership of Edward Steinfeld, professor of architecture.

Edward Noakes, AIA, chairman of the AIA task force on barrier-free policy, says that nearly every element of BOCA's proposed revisions "is currently the subject of investigation and testing" at Syracuse. "We see no logical course of action than to recommend that the BOCA proposed revisions be remanded for further study."

"AIA is deeply committed to the development of both better and broader based design criteria related to the accessible and usable environment for the handicapped people," Noakes says. Members of the task force "place primary emphasis on the updating of the present AIA standard, based on the process of research and experimentation carried through the consensus method, or, alternatively, by the consensus method, to become a truly nationally accepted set of requirements."

By waiting a year to make revisions in the BOCA code, Noakes says, "The confusion and frustration that would be generated by one more set of criteria will be avoided and the ground laid for widespread acceptance of the new revised ANSI standard."

More than 100 of AIA components have codes and standards committees, and Dowling reports that such committees will be informed of AIA's position on the BOCA revisions to insure total uniformity throughout the U.S.

Testimony by James R. Dowling before

The Code Changes Committee of BOCA, International

December 3, 1975

The American Institute of Architects is deeply committed to the development of both better and broader based design criteria related to an accessible and usable environment for handicapped people. The members of national AIA task force on barrier free policy place primary emphasis on the updating of the present ANSI standard, based on the process of research and experimentation carried through the consensus method (or ratified by the consensus method) to become a truly national accepted set of requirements. This process is now well underway at Syracuse University School of Architecture under a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is our hope that these new standards will be available in time to become the basis for proposed revisions to BOCA next year.

It is believed that by so doing, the universal desire for a single set of standards will at last be within our reach and that the era of proliferation of different standards will come to an end, BOCA is clearly a major force towards that end.

The proposed revisions to BOCA, now being considered, have been carefully reviewed. Because nearly every element contained in those revisions is currently the subject of investigation and testing at Syracuse, we see no other logical course of action that to recommend that they be remanded for further study.

We do this with deep regret, knowing the intense effort that has gone into their development and particularly knowing that buildings designed on the basis of the present standard will be less than fully satisfactory for handicapped individuals, our hope is that by waiting one year, the confusion and frustration that would be generated by one more set of criteria will be avoided and the ground work laid for widespread acceptance of the new revised ANSI standard.

Introduced: 4/19/76
Referred: Health, Education
and Social Services and
Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY, CROFT AND CHANCE

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 201

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the elimination of architectural
7 barriers in public buildings and facilities for physi-
8 cally handicapped, aged or infirm persons; and provid-
9 ing for an effective date."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 * Section 1. AS 35.10.015 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 35.10.015. ARCHITECTURAL BARRIER REGULATIONS; ENFORCEMENT.

13 The Department of Public Works shall prepare, promulgate and enforce
14 [IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING AND PROMULGATING] regulations governing
15 the construction of public buildings and facilities by or for the state,
16 including the University of Alaska, and its political subdivisions,
17 whether financed in whole or in part by federal funds, to insure that
18 the public buildings and facilities are accessible to, and usable by,
19 the physically handicapped, aged or infirm. The regulations of the
20 department shall conform to applicable provisions of federal law or
21 regulation and [AS FAR AS IT IS FEASIBLE] to the publication entitled
22 "American Standard Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities
23 Accessible to and Usable by the Physically Handicapped" or any amend-
24 ments to this publication as approved by the American Standards Associa-
25 tion, Incorporated, under the sponsorship of the National Society for
26 Crippled Children and Adults and the President's Committee on Employment
27 of the Physically Handicapped.

28 * Sec. 2. AS 35.10.015 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

29 (b) The department shall develop and maintain an inventory of all

1 public buildings and facilities with respect to their compliance with
2 the regulations adopted under (a) of this section. The department shall
3 make an annual report to the governor and the legislature describing
4 work performed in the preceding calendar year to upgrade public buildings
5 and facilities to conform with the regulations. In addition, the
6 department shall develop cost estimates and recommended priorities for
7 the upgrading of public buildings and facilities that do not conform
8 with the regulations adopted under (a) of this section and shall include
9 these estimates and the recommended priorities in the annual report to
10 the governor and the legislature.

11 * Sec. 3. After the effective date of this Act, no public building or
12 facility in the state may be planned, designed, financed, constructed, opened
13 to public use, or otherwise placed in operation unless it meets the standards
14 established under AS 35.10.015, as amended by sec. 1 of this Act.

15 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-
16 070(c).

Introduced: 4/19/76
Referred: Health, Education
and Social Services and
Finance

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BY BRADLEY, CROFT AND CHANCE

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ALASKA CHAPTER THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

20 April 1976

CODES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Donald Harris, Commissioner
Department of Public Works
State of Alaska
Pouch Z
Juneau, Alaska 99811

BUILDING CODE PROVISIONS FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Dear Mr. Harris:

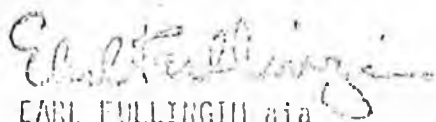
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By separate letter I am advising the sponsors of HB 225 and SB 201 of the correct title of A 117.1.

Cordially



EARL FULLINGIM via
Chairman
Codes and Standards Committee
841 J Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

PLEASE REPLY TO:

cc Francis S.L. Williamson, Commissioner HSS
Edmund R. Orbeck, Commissioner of Labor
Richard L. Burton, Commissioner of
Public Safety
William H. Race, Director
Division of Buildings
Ronald A. Hendrie, Fire Marshal
Everett Simpson, State Architect
Michael Plunkett AIA, President
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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 4, 1976

To: Chairpersons, AIA Component Codes and Standards Committees

From: James R. Dowling, Director, Codes and Regulations Center

Subject: Building Code Provisions For The Physically Handicapped

Copies: Members, Commission on Professional Practice, AIA National Codes and Standards Committee, AIA Task Force on Barrier Free Policy, Messrs. de Moll, McGinty, Slayton, Schoeler, Penasio, Barker, Payne and Glover

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JRD/la

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RECEIVED MAR 18 1976

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Editorial

A SINGLE STANDARD

Because the movement to eliminate architectural barriers brings together a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations, the joint progress achieved will depend in large measure on our speaking the same language in terms of a single standard of accessibility.

A long-standing problem has been the needless confusion caused by conflicting codes. With the development of the new ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standard, providing clear prescriptive data based upon thorough research using handicapped subjects, the opportunity will exist for a uniform approach to all codes and regulations, whether local, state or national.

Existing legislation that is founded on the original ANSI standard should automatically incorporate the revised standard. Other agencies that may have adopted differing codes in the interim must be encouraged to bring their standards into conformity with the new ANSI standard.

The virtue of the ANSI standard will be twofold. First is its detailed content, which is essential to the practicing architect and builder who must deal with the subtle complexities of accessible design. Equally important is the broad base of support which ANSI develops through its traditional process of review and approval by advisory panels before it is adopted.

To fulfill the national function for which it is planned, the ANSI standard must be clear, complete and comprehensive. It must deal with the actual needs both of today's handicapped population and of those, perhaps more severely disabled, who may be seeking access to the community resources of the future. This is a large demand to make, but we feel the ANSI project now underway at Syracuse University School of Architecture is on the way to achieving it.

Matthei, AIA, secretary of the National Easter Seal Society and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center in 1975.

Excerpts from these presentations and those made at the afternoon Open Forum are on pages 3-6.

Founding Members

- American Institute of Architects
- Disabled American Veterans
- Capitol Hill Group
- Confidential Federal Agency for the Handicapped
- National Center for the Employment of the Physically Handicapped

- National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults
- National Employment Council
- National Rehabilitation Association
- Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc.
- President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped

Editor
Edward J. Leonard
President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped

Special Article
 From Problem to Solution:
 The New Focus in Fighting Environmental Barriers
 RITA MCGAUGHEY

A DISTINCT CHANGE

SPECIAL ARTICLE

recent conference in Louisville. Unfortunately, a clear distinction of lines for drawing data from the two HUD programs and the HUD departmental program being conducted at Syracuse was not made as hoped for at the Conference.

To Building Codes as well as Standards, changes are being proposed to insure accessibility of persons with handicaps in buildings across the country. Some of the provisions for the physically handicapped proposed for incorporation in the 1975 Uniform Code of Building Officials and Code Administrators included such requirements:

- 1) Guestroom with for every 25 units in (multi-unit, hotel) building be made available to the physically handicapped.
- 2) Reduced parking space of not less than 12 feet in width be available and identified by signs as reserved for physically handicapped persons.
- 3) Curb cut with a gradient of not more than one foot in 16 feet and a width of not less than 4 feet for wheelchair access.
- 4) Where a public or pay phone is installed, 5 percent of not less than one telephone booth shall, with the aid of a handset, be more than 34 inches above the ground.

Representing the American Institute of Architects and Republican Center at the November, 1975, Joint HUD Conference, James R. Downing, director of the Center, cited representative organizations serving the handicapped for the implementation of their efforts to strengthen accessibility provisions in Building Codes. He directed the group to develop proposed changes in concert with all affected parties prior to submitting a particular code "building officials" says Mr. Downing, "have been responsible in establishing requirements for the handicapped over the years and the best way to reduce that 'barrier' and is through teamwork and a unified approach."

Implementation, a face tending to negate the marked progress being made in the movement to eliminate barriers is the chief concern of the National Center for a Barrier-Free Environment, established in 1974 to coordinate and advance the physical of handicapped persons and to advise the physical of handicapped persons and to advise the physical of handicapped persons and to advise the physical of handicapped persons.

tion in Louisville, Edward H. Mosher, a Washington architect who serves as President, related the broad spectrum of individuals and organizations represented in the Center's membership that any progress achieved "in our handicapped areas will depend in large measure upon our speaking the same language."

Still another school of thought holds to the notion that, given heterogeneous approaches to a multitude of needs, the best product will emerge. Clearly, an interesting philosophical issue is debated.

The case for uniformity is strongly supported by a special Task Force on Barriers to Access established in 1974 by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). In the interest of uniformity in the field of handicapped design standards and related code without exception, the AIA Task Force is applying its efforts to the Standards Revision Project being conducted at Syracuse and hopes to recommend regulations by the Institute and the adoption of the new standards when they become available. Said to be final is the change of preserving the uniformity in legislation that was achieved in the 1950's when the first AIA standards for accessibility were adopted as local laws for additional barriers have sprung from the nation.

Given the relative efforts which abound at this time to create the movement for a barrier-free environment, it is not surprising that the standard for accessibility of the physically disabled has become for making codes and laws reduce the true climate of support. Ironically, while the more standards of building codes, the process for creating the standard is flexible to the changing climate—a requisite for any such changing for solving the barrier problem. A widespread narrative to create better solutions in future years can be justified with reasonable change, and standards. Finally, then, the biggest hurdle to the success of the existing regulation of standards and laws to deal with the problem, thus involving solutions that are in harmony with the times.

List of References

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Delay Asked in Change On Barrier-Free Code

AIA's task force on barrier-free policy has recommended to the Building Officials and Code Administrators International that BOCA wait a year before incorporating into its building code proposed revisions aimed at making structures more accessible to the physically handicapped. Due to BOCA's "intense effort" and the fact that structures built in the meantime will be less than fully satisfactory to the handicapped, the task force urges delay in BOCA change in order to achieve a single, universal set of standards, thus "ending an era of proliferation of inefficient standards."

Over the years, BOCA has included in its code provisions that were intended to make buildings more accessible. But says James E. Dowling, Director of AIA codes and regulations center, "The various codes were based on an old definition of handicap, and the provisions were often not satisfactory. For example, some codes required that the front end of the story be clear to review and evaluate all suggested changes that pertain to the readability of buildings." BOCA eventually will consider these changes at its annual meeting in June and will come to a decision about code inclusion in the BOCA 1975 code.

The suggestion by AIA's task force on barrier-free policy that BOCA wait a year before making changes is due to the fact that work on the revision of the American National Standard Institute's "Specification for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, the Physically Handicapped" (A117.1-1961) is progressing and should be completed in 1975.

The work on the AIA standard has been conducted at Syracuse University under a \$250,000 contract awarded by HUD.

The purpose is to replace the old A117.1 with a standard that will cover residential as well as public buildings. HUD, says AIA, "plans to apply the resulting standard to single and multifamily dwellings financed under Federal Housing Administration-insured loans." The 1961 A117.1 is termed by AIA as "one of the most widely used" of its standards, and it is incorporated, in whole or in part, "in the codes of all 50 states and referenced by many federal agencies." Research at Syracuse on a new standard has included exhaustive tests conducted under the leadership of Edward L. Cook, professor of architecture.

Edward Norman, AIA, chairman of the AIA task force on barrier-free policy, says that nearly every copy of BOCA's proposed revisions "is currently the subject of investigation and study" at Syracuse. "We see no logical course or action that we recommend that the BOCA proposed revisions be postponed for further study."

"AIA is deeply committed to the development of both building codes and code-writing criteria," says Norman. "The example," he says, "is the work of the task force 'please patient' process of the updating of the present code, which is based on the principle of technical competence and the consensus method. Our goal is the consensus method, to reach a nationally accepted set of requirements."

By waiting a year to make changes in the BOCA code, he says, "The confusion and frustration that would be generated by one set of codes will be avoided and the process will speed acceptance of the new revised AIA standard."

More than 100 of AIA components have codes and standards committees, and Dowling reports that such committees will be informed of AIA position on the BOCA revisions to insure total uniformity throughout the U.S.

Testimony by James R. Dowling before

The Code Changes Committee of BOCA, International

December 3, 1975

The American Institute of Architects is deeply committed to the development of both better and broader based design criteria related to an accessible and usable environment for handicapped people. The members of national AIA task force on barrier free policy place primary emphasis on the updating of the present ANSI standard, based on the process of research and experimentation carried through the consensus method (or ratified by the consensus method) to become a truly national accepted set of requirements. This process is now well underway at Syracuse University School of Architecture under a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is our hope that these new standards will be available in time to become the basis for proposed revisions to BOCA next year.

It is believed that by so doing, the universal desire for a single set of standards will at last be within our reach and that the era of proliferation of different standards will come to an end, BOCA is clearly a major force towards that end.

The proposed revisions to BOCA, now being considered, have been carefully reviewed. Because nearly every element contained in those revisions is currently the subject of investigation and testing at Syracuse, we see no other logical course of action that to recommend that they be remanded for further study.

We do this with deep regret, knowing the intense effort that has gone into their development and particularly knowing that buildings designed on the basis of the present standard will be less than fully satisfactory for handicapped individuals, our hope is that by waiting one year, the confusion and frustration that would be generated by one more set of criteria will be avoided and the ground work laid for widespread acceptance of the new revised ANSI standard.