
HOUSE BILL 2608

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Hargrove and Heavey

Read first time 01/22/92. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to certificates of competency for registered
2 contractors; adding a new section to chapter 18.27 RCW; prescribing
3 penalties; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.27 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall develop and implement a voluntary
8 certificate of competency program for general and specialty contractors
9 registered under this chapter.

10 (2) The department shall prepare appropriate examinations for
11 general and specialty contractors' certificates of competency to be
12 administered to eligible applicants. The examination must be
13 constructed to determine:

1 (a) Whether the applicant possesses varied general knowledge of the
2 technical information and practical procedures identified with the
3 construction trade; and

4 (b) Whether the applicant is familiar with the applicable building
5 codes, statutory requirements, and administrative rules pertaining to
6 the construction trade.

7 (3)(a) An applicant for a contractor certificate of competency
8 shall submit the required fee and an application to take the competency
9 examination on the form and in the manner prescribed by the department.
10 The applicant must be a registered contractor, and, except as otherwise
11 provided in (c) of this subsection, must provide written evidence that
12 he or she has completed a course of study in the construction trade for
13 general or specialty contractors, as appropriate, at a school or
14 training program approved by the department. If the director
15 determines that the applicant is eligible to take the examination, the
16 director shall notify the applicant of the time and place of the
17 examination. The director shall establish reasonable rules for the
18 conduct of examinations.

19 (b) The department shall certify the results of the examination and
20 shall notify the applicant in writing whether he or she has passed or
21 failed. An applicant who has failed the examination may retake the
22 examination, on the terms and after a period of time determined by the
23 department by rule. The number of times that an applicant may take the
24 examination may not be limited.

25 (c) An applicant for the competency examination is not required to
26 provide evidence of training if, as of the effective date of this act,
27 the applicant is a registered contractor engaged in a bona fide
28 contracting business with at least two years of experience.

29 (4) The department shall issue a certificate of competency to an
30 applicant who has passed the examination and has paid all appropriate

1 fees. The certificate must bear the date of issuance, and must expire
2 on the birthdate of the holder immediately following the date of
3 issuance. The certificate is renewable every other year, upon
4 application and payment of a fee, on or before the holder's birthdate.
5 A doubled fee shall be charged for failure to renew the certificate by
6 the renewal date. A holder shall retake the examination and pay the
7 examination fee if he or she does not renew the certificate within
8 ninety days of the renewal date in order to renew the certificate.

9 (5) The department shall establish certification fees that cover
10 the full cost of processing applications for certification, developing
11 and administering the examination, and issuing and renewing
12 certification.

13 (6) The holder of a certificate of competency may verbally
14 represent that he or she holds a certificate of competency and may
15 include the information that he or she holds the certificate in
16 documents, including but not limited to advertising, contracts,
17 business cards, and signs. A making of a claim by a contractor that he
18 or she holds a certificate of competency when such a certificate has
19 not been lawfully issued to the contractor or is not in force under
20 this chapter is an infraction and the contractor is subject to having
21 his or her registration suspended for up to two years.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act shall take effect January 1,
23 1993.