
SENATE BILL 6630

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Honeyford, Rasmussen and Sheahan

Read first time 01/23/2002. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to certification of electricians; and amending RCW
2 19.28.006, 19.28.041, 19.28.051, 19.28.061, 19.28.161, 19.28.191,
3 19.28.201, 19.28.211, and 19.28.241.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.006 and 2001 c 211 s 1 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this subchapter.

8 (1) "Administrator" means a person designated by an electrical
9 contractor to supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance
10 with the rules adopted under this chapter.

11 (2) "Board" means the electrical board under RCW 19.28.311.

12 (3) "Chapter" or "subchapter" means the subchapter, if no chapter
13 number is referenced.

14 (4) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

15 (5) "Director" means the director of the department or the
16 director's designee.

17 (6) "Electrical construction trade" includes but is not limited to
18 installing or maintaining electrical wires and equipment that are used
19 for light, heat, or power and installing and maintaining remote

1 control, signaling, power limited, or communication circuits or
2 systems.

3 (7) "Electrical contractor" means a person, firm, partnership,
4 corporation, or other entity that offers to undertake, undertakes,
5 submits a bid for, or does the work of installing or maintaining wires
6 or equipment that convey electrical current.

7 (8) "Equipment" means any equipment or apparatus that directly
8 uses, conducts, or is operated by electricity but does not mean plug-in
9 household appliances.

10 (9) "Industrial control panel" means a factory-wired or user-wired
11 assembly of industrial control equipment such as motor controllers,
12 switches, relays, power supplies, computers, cathode ray tubes,
13 transducers, and auxiliary devices. The panel may include disconnect
14 means and motor branch circuit protective devices.

15 (10) "Journeyman electrician" means a person who has been issued a
16 journeyman electrician certificate of competency by the department.

17 (11) "Master electrician" means either a master journeyman
18 electrician or master specialty electrician.

19 (12) "Master journeyman electrician" means a person who has been
20 issued a master journeyman electrician certificate of competency by the
21 department and who may be designated by an electrical contractor to
22 supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance with rules
23 adopted under this chapter.

24 (13) "Master specialty electrician" means a person who has been
25 issued a specialty electrician certificate of competency by the
26 department and who may be designated by an electrical contractor to
27 supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance with rules
28 adopted under this chapter.

29 (14) "Specialty electrician" means a person who has been issued a
30 specialty electrician certificate of competency by the department.

31 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.041 and 2001 c 211 s 3 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 (1) It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation,
34 or other entity to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of
35 installing or maintaining wires or equipment to convey electric
36 current, or installing or maintaining equipment to be operated by
37 electric current as it pertains to the electrical industry, without
38 having an unrevoked, unsuspended, and unexpired electrical contractor

1 license, issued by the department in accordance with this chapter. All
2 electrical contractor licenses expire twenty-four calendar months
3 following the day of their issue. The department may issue an
4 electrical contractors license for a period of less than twenty-four
5 months only for the purpose of equalizing the number of electrical
6 contractor licenses that expire each month. Application for an
7 electrical contractor license shall be made in writing to the
8 department, accompanied by the required fee. The application shall
9 state:

10 (a) The name and address of the applicant; in case of firms or
11 partnerships, the names of the individuals composing the firm or
12 partnership; in case of corporations, the names of the managing
13 officials thereof;

14 (b) The location of the place of business of the applicant and the
15 name under which the business is conducted;

16 (c) Employer social security number;

17 (d) Evidence of workers' compensation coverage for the applicant's
18 employees working in Washington, as follows:

19 (i) The applicant's industrial insurance account number issued by
20 the department;

21 (ii) The applicant's self-insurer number issued by the department;
22 or

23 (iii) For applicants domiciled in a state or province of Canada
24 subject to an agreement entered into under RCW 51.12.120(7), as
25 permitted by the agreement, filing a certificate of coverage issued by
26 the agency that administers the workers' compensation law in the
27 applicant's state or province of domicile certifying that the applicant
28 has secured the payment of compensation under the other state's or
29 province's workers' compensation law;

30 (e) Employment security department number;

31 (f) State excise tax registration number;

32 (g) Unified business identifier (UBI) account number may be
33 substituted for the information required by (d) of this subsection if
34 the applicant will not employ employees in Washington, and by (e) and
35 (f) of this subsection; and

36 (h) Whether a general or specialty electrical contractor license is
37 sought and, if the latter, the type of specialty. Electrical
38 contractor specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential,
39 (~~domestic appliances,~~) pump and irrigation, limited energy system,

1 signs, nonresidential maintenance, and a combination specialty. A
2 general electrical contractor license shall grant to the holder the
3 right to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of installing or
4 maintaining wires or equipment to carry electric current, and
5 installing or maintaining equipment, or installing or maintaining
6 material to fasten or insulate such wires or equipment to be operated
7 by electric current, in the state of Washington. A specialty
8 electrical contractor license shall grant to the holder a limited right
9 to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of installing or
10 maintaining wires or equipment to carry electrical current, and
11 installing or maintaining equipment; or installing or maintaining
12 material to fasten or insulate such wires or equipment to be operated
13 by electric current in the state of Washington as expressly allowed by
14 the license.

15 (2) The department may verify the workers' compensation coverage
16 information provided by the applicant under subsection (1)(d) of this
17 section, including but not limited to information regarding the
18 coverage of an individual employee of the applicant. If coverage is
19 provided under the laws of another state, the department may notify the
20 other state that the applicant is employing employees in Washington.

21 (3) The application for ((a)) an electrical contractor license
22 shall be accompanied by a bond in the sum of four thousand dollars with
23 the state of Washington named as obligee in the bond, with good and
24 sufficient surety, to be approved by the department. The bond shall at
25 all times be kept in full force and effect, and any cancellation or
26 revocation thereof, or withdrawal of the surety therefrom, suspends the
27 license issued to the principal until a new bond has been filed and
28 approved as provided in this section. Upon approval of a bond, the
29 department shall on the next business day deposit the fee accompanying
30 the application in the electrical license fund and shall file the bond
31 in the office. The department shall upon request furnish to any
32 person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity a certified
33 copy of the bond upon the payment of a fee that the department shall
34 set by rule. The fee shall cover but not exceed the cost of furnishing
35 the certified copy. The bond shall be conditioned that in any
36 installation or maintenance of wires or equipment to convey electrical
37 current, and equipment to be operated by electrical current, the
38 principal will comply with the provisions of this chapter and with any
39 electrical ordinance, building code, or regulation of a city or town

1 adopted pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3) that is in effect at the time of
2 entering into a contract. The bond shall be conditioned further that
3 the principal will pay for all labor, including employee benefits, and
4 material furnished or used upon the work, taxes and contributions to
5 the state of Washington, and all damages that may be sustained by any
6 person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity due to a
7 failure of the principal to make the installation or maintenance in
8 accordance with this chapter or any applicable ordinance, building
9 code, or regulation of a city or town adopted pursuant to RCW
10 19.28.010(3). In lieu of the surety bond required by this section the
11 license applicant may file with the department a cash deposit or other
12 negotiable security acceptable to the department. If the license
13 applicant has filed a cash deposit, the department shall deposit the
14 funds in a special trust savings account in a commercial bank, mutual
15 savings bank, or savings and loan association and shall pay annually to
16 the depositor the interest derived from the account.

17 (4) The department shall issue general or specialty electrical
18 contractor licenses to applicants meeting all of the requirements of
19 this chapter. The provisions of this chapter relating to the licensing
20 of any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity
21 including the requirement of a bond with the state of Washington named
22 as obligee therein and the collection of a fee therefor, are exclusive,
23 and no political subdivision of the state of Washington may require or
24 issue any licenses or bonds or charge any fee for the same or a similar
25 purpose. No person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity
26 holding more than one specialty contractor license under this chapter
27 may be required to pay an annual fee for more than one such license or
28 to post more than one four thousand dollar bond, equivalent cash
29 deposit, or other negotiable security.

30 (5) To obtain a general or specialty electrical contractor license
31 the applicant must designate an individual who currently possesses
32 ~~((an))~~ a valid master journeyman electrician's certificate of
33 competency, valid master specialty electrician's certificate of
34 competency in the specialty for which application has been made, valid
35 administrator's certificate as a general electrical contractor
36 administrator or as a specialty electrical contractor administrator in
37 the specialty for which application has been made.

38 (6) Administrator certificate specialties include but are not
39 limited to: Residential, ~~((domestic, appliance,))~~ pump and irrigation,

1 limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance, and
2 combination specialty. To obtain an administrator's certificate an
3 individual must pass an examination as set forth in RCW 19.28.051
4 unless the applicant was a licensed electrical contractor at any time
5 during 1974. Applicants who were electrical contractors licensed by
6 the state of Washington at any time during 1974 are entitled to receive
7 a general electrical contractor administrator's certificate without
8 examination if the applicants apply prior to January 1, 1984. The
9 board of electrical examiners shall certify to the department the names
10 of all persons who are entitled to either a general or specialty
11 electrical contractor administrator's certificate.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.051 and 2001 c 211 s 4 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 It shall be the purpose and function of the board to establish, in
15 addition to a general electrical contractors' license, such
16 classifications of specialty electrical contractors' licenses as it
17 deems appropriate with regard to individual sections pertaining to
18 state adopted codes in this chapter. In addition, it shall be the
19 purpose and function of the board to establish and administer written
20 examinations for general electrical administrators' certificates and
21 the various specialty electrical administrators' certificates.
22 Examinations shall be designed to reasonably (~~insure~~) ensure that
23 general and specialty electrical administrators' certificate holders
24 are competent to engage in and supervise the work covered by this
25 statute and their respective licenses. The examinations shall include
26 questions from the following categories to assure proper safety and
27 protection for the general public: (1) Safety, (2) state electrical
28 code, and (3) electrical theory. The department with the consent of
29 the board shall be permitted to enter into a contract with a
30 professional testing agency to develop, administer, and score these
31 examinations. A person may take the administrator's examination as
32 many times as necessary without limit. The fee for the examination may
33 be set by the department in its contract with the professional testing
34 agency. The department may direct that the applicant pay the fee to
35 the professional testing agency. The fee shall cover but not exceed
36 the costs of preparing and administering the examination. It shall be
37 the further purpose and function of this board to advise the director
38 as to the need of additional electrical inspectors and compliance

1 officers to be utilized by the director on either a full-time or part-
2 time employment basis and to carry out the duties enumerated in RCW
3 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 as well as generally advise the department
4 on all matters relative to RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271.

5 **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.28.061 and 1996 c 241 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Each applicant for an electrical contractor's license, other
8 than an individual, shall designate a supervisory employee or member of
9 the firm to take the required master electrician's or administrator's
10 examination. Effective July 1, 1987, a supervisory employee designated
11 as the electrical contractor's master electrician or administrator
12 shall be a full-time supervisory employee. This person shall be
13 designated as master electrician or administrator under the license.
14 No person may concurrently qualify as master electrician or
15 administrator for more than one contractor. If the relationship of the
16 master electrician or administrator with the electrical contractor is
17 terminated, the contractor's license is void within ninety days unless
18 another master electrician or administrator is qualified by the board.
19 However, if the master electrician or administrator dies or is
20 otherwise incapacitated, the contractor's license is void within one
21 hundred eighty days unless another master electrician or administrator
22 is qualified by the board. (~~(A certificate issued under this section~~
23 ~~is valid for two years from the nearest birthdate of the administrator,~~
24 ~~unless revoked or suspended, and further is nontransferable.)) The
25 contractor must notify the department in writing within ten days if the
26 master electrician's or administrator's relationship with the
27 contractor terminates due to the master electrician's or
28 administrator's death or incapacitation.~~

29 (2) The department must issue an administrator's certificate to all
30 applicants who have passed the examination provided in RCW 19.28.051
31 and this section, and who have complied with the rules adopted under
32 this chapter. The administrator's certificate must bear the date of
33 issuance, expires on the holder's birthday, and is nontransferable.
34 The certificate must be renewed every three years, upon application, on
35 or before the holder's birthday.

36 (a) If the certificate holder demonstrates to the department that
37 he or she has satisfactorily completed an annual eight-hour continuing
38 education course, the certificate may be renewed by appropriate

1 application without examination unless the certificate has been
2 revoked, suspended, or not renewed within ninety days after the
3 expiration date.

4 (b) The contents and requirements for satisfactory completion of
5 the continuing education course must be determined by the director and
6 approved by the board.

7 (c) The department must accept proof of a certificate holder's
8 satisfactory completion of a continuing education course offered in
9 another state as meeting the requirements for maintaining a current
10 Washington state certificate if the department is satisfied the course
11 is comparable in nature to that required in Washington state for
12 maintaining a current certificate.

13 (3) A fee must be assessed for each administrator's certificate and
14 for each renewal. An individual holding more than one administrator's
15 certificate under this chapter is not required to pay fees for more
16 than one certificate. If the certificate is not renewed before the
17 expiration date, the individual must pay twice the usual fee. The
18 department must set the fees by rule for issuance and renewal of a
19 certificate. The fees must cover, but not exceed, the costs of issuing
20 the certificates and of administering and enforcing the electrician
21 certification requirements of this chapter.

22 (4) The department may deny an application for an administrator's
23 certificate for up to two years if the applicant's previous
24 administrator's certificate has been revoked for a serious violation
25 and all appeals concerning the revocation have been exhausted. For the
26 purposes of this section only, a serious violation is a violation that
27 presents imminent danger to the public. ((The certificate may be
28 renewed for a two year period without examination by appropriate
29 application unless the certificate has been revoked, suspended, or not
30 renewed within ninety days after the expiration date. If the
31 certificate is not renewed before the expiration date, the individual
32 shall pay twice the usual fee. An individual holding more than one
33 administrator's certificate under this chapter shall not be required to
34 pay annual fees for more than one certificate. A person may take the
35 administrator's test as many times as necessary without limit.

36 ~~(2))~~ (5) The designated master electrician or administrator shall:

37 (a) Be a member of the firm or a supervisory employee and shall be
38 available during working hours to carry out the duties of an
39 administrator under this section;

1 (b) Ensure that all electrical work complies with the electrical
2 installation laws and rules of the state;

3 (c) Ensure that the proper electrical safety procedures are used;

4 (d) Ensure that all electrical labels, permits, and licenses
5 required to perform electrical work are used;

6 (e) See that corrective notices issued by an inspecting authority
7 are complied with; and

8 (f) Notify the department in writing within ten days if the master
9 electrician or administrator terminates the relationship with the
10 electrical contractor.

11 ~~((+3))~~ (6) The department shall not by rule change the
12 administrator's duties under subsection ~~((+2))~~ (5) of this section.

13 **Sec. 5.** RCW 19.28.161 and 1997 c 309 s 1 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade
16 without having a ~~((current))~~ valid master journeyman electrician
17 certificate of competency, journeyman electrician certificate of
18 competency, master specialty electrician certificate of competency, or
19 a current specialty electrician certificate of competency issued by the
20 department in accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of
21 competency specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential,
22 ~~((domestic appliances,))~~ pump and irrigation, limited energy system,
23 signs, and nonresidential maintenance.

24 (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program
25 approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade
26 or who is learning the electrical construction trade may work in the
27 electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified master
28 journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty
29 electrician in that electrician's specialty, or a certified specialty
30 electrician in that electrician's specialty. All apprentices and
31 individuals learning the electrical construction trade shall obtain an
32 electrical training certificate from the department. The certificate
33 shall authorize the holder to learn the electrical construction trade
34 while under the direct supervision of a master journeyman electrician,
35 journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
36 electrician's specialty, or a specialty electrician working in ~~((his or~~
37 ~~her))~~ that electrician's specialty. The holder of the electrical
38 training certificate shall renew the certificate ~~((annually))~~

1 biennially. At the time of renewal, the holder shall provide the
2 department with an accurate list of the holder's employers in the
3 electrical construction industry for the previous year and the number
4 of hours worked for each employer. ~~((An annual))~~ A biennial fee shall
5 be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The
6 department shall set the fee by rule. The fee shall cover but not
7 exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee
8 certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.
9 Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade
10 shall have their electrical training certificates in their possession
11 at all times that they are performing electrical work. They shall show
12 their certificates to an authorized representative of the department at
13 the representative's request.

14 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training
15 certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under
16 supervision. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same
17 job site and under the control of either a certified master journeyman
18 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician
19 working in that electrician's specialty, or ~~((an appropriate))~~ a
20 specialty electrician ~~((who has an applicable certificate of competency~~
21 ~~issued under this chapter. Either a journeyman electrician or an~~
22 ~~appropriate specialty electrician shall be on the same job site as the~~
23 ~~noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy five percent of each~~
24 ~~working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter))~~ working in that
25 electrician's specialty.

26 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master
27 journeymen electricians, journeymen electricians, master specialty
28 electricians, or specialty electricians ~~((working))~~ on ~~((a))~~ any one
29 job site ~~((shall be))~~ is as follows:

30 (a) When working as a specialty electrician, not more than two
31 noncertified individuals ~~((working on any one job site))~~ for every
32 certified master specialty electrician working in that electrician's
33 specialty, specialty electrician working in that electrician's
34 specialty, master journeyman electrician, or journeyman electrician
35 ~~((working as a specialty electrician)),~~ except that the ratio
36 requirements are one certified master specialty electrician working in
37 that electrician's specialty, certified specialty electrician working
38 in that electrician's specialty, certified master journeyman
39 electrician, or certified journeyman electrician working as a specialty

1 electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working as
2 part of an electrical construction program at public community or
3 technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or
4 technical schools licensed by the work force training and education
5 coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio
6 requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction
7 program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and advice
8 from the electrical board; and

9 (b) When working as a journeyman electrician, not more than one
10 noncertified individual ((working on any one job site)) for every
11 certified master journeyman electrician or certified journeyman
12 electrician, except that the ratio requirements shall be one certified
13 master journeyman electrician or certified journeyman electrician to no
14 more than four students enrolled in and working as part of an
15 electrical construction program at public community or technical
16 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or technical
17 schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating
18 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio requirements for
19 students enrolled in an electrical construction program at a trade
20 school, a trade school may receive input and advice from the electrical
21 board.

22 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has
23 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved
24 apprenticeship program or in an electrical construction program at
25 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
26 accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the work force
27 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may
28 work without direct on-site supervision during the last six months of
29 meeting the practical experience requirements of this chapter.

30 (5) Either a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician,
31 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,
32 or an appropriate specialty electrician working in that electrician's
33 specialty must be on the same job site as the noncertified individual
34 for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each working day except that
35 when the ratio of certified electricians to noncertified individuals on
36 a job site is one certified electrician to three or four noncertified
37 individuals the certified electrician must:

1 (a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals
2 and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an
3 electrical installation; and

4 (b) Be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a
5 minimum of one hundred percent of each working day.

6 (6) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and attest to
7 the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on behalf of
8 the electrical contractor.

9 **Sec. 6.** RCW 19.28.191 and 1997 c 309 s 3 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review
12 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take
13 an examination for the master journeyman electrician, journeyman
14 electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician
15 certificate of competency.

16 (a) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid general
17 administrator's certificate and possesses a valid journeyman
18 electrician certificate of competency in effect for the previous four
19 years may apply for a master journeyman electrician certificate of
20 competency without examination.

21 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid
22 specialty administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for,
23 and possesses a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency,
24 in the specialty applied for, for the previous two years may apply for
25 a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without
26 examination.

27 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journeyman
28 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed
29 a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency for four
30 years.

31 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty
32 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed
33 a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the
34 specialty applied for, for two years.

35 (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman
36 certificate of competency the applicant must have:

37 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of
38 ~~((four years))~~ eight thousand hours employed full time, of which ~~((two~~

1 years)) four thousand hours shall be in industrial or commercial
2 electrical installation under the supervision of a journeyman
3 electrician and not more than a total of ~~((two years))~~ four thousand
4 hours in all specialties under the supervision of a journeyman
5 electrician or an appropriate specialty electrician. Specialty
6 electricians with less than a four thousand hour work experience
7 requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that specialty
8 towards qualifying to become a journeyman electrician; or

9 (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved
10 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.

11 ~~((b))~~ (f) To be eligible to take the examination ~~((to become))~~
12 for a specialty electrician certificate of competency the applicant
13 ~~((shall))~~ must have:

14 (i) Worked in ~~((that specialty of the electrical construction~~
15 ~~trade, under the supervision of a journeyman electrician or an~~
16 ~~appropriate specialty electrician, for a minimum of two years employed~~
17 ~~full time))~~ the residential, pump and irrigation, sign, limited energy,
18 or nonresidential maintenance specialties of the electrical
19 construction trade under the supervision of a master journeyman
20 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician
21 working in that electrician's specialty, or a specialty electrician
22 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of four thousand
23 hours; or

24 (ii) Worked in other than the designated specialties in (f)(i) of
25 this subsection for a period of time set by the department by rule,
26 after consulting with the electrical board and receiving the electrical
27 board's recommendation, while working under the supervision of a master
28 journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty
29 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
30 electrician working in that electrician's specialty; or

31 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program
32 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the electrical
33 construction trade.

34 ~~((e))~~ (g) Any applicant for a journeyman electrician certificate
35 of competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the
36 electrical construction trade at public community or technical
37 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade
38 schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating
39 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two years of the

1 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience
2 under a master journeyman electrician or a journeyman electrician. The
3 applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience
4 required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to
5 the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school
6 program. ~~((Any applicant who has received training in the electrical
7 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be
8 eligible to take the examination for the certificate of competency.~~

9 ~~(d))~~ (h) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of
10 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a
11 program in the electrical construction trade at a public community or
12 technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally accredited technical
13 or trade school licensed by the work force training and education
14 coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to one
15 year of the technical or trade school program for one year of work
16 experience under a master journeyman electrician, journeyman
17 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's
18 specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's
19 specialty.

20 (i) The department must determine whether hours of training and
21 experience in the military or school program are in the electrical
22 construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for hours of work
23 experience. The department must use the following criteria for
24 evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical training programs
25 and work in the electrical construction trade:

26 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of two
27 thousand or more hours of student/instructor contact time.

28 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of one
29 thousand six hundred hours of student/instructor contact time must be
30 technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope of work
31 of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time includes
32 lecture, in-school lab, and may include off-site instructor-supervised
33 electrical installation.

34 (iii) External intern programs must not be used to comply with the
35 student/instructor contact hours requirement, but will be eligible for
36 electrical trainee work experience credit if performed in accordance
37 with this chapter.

38 (iv) The department may not allow credit for a program that accepts
39 more than one thousand hours transferred from another school's program.

1 (v) Electrical specialty training programs of less than two years,
2 established under this subsection, will have all of the above
3 student/instructor contact time hours proportionately reduced.

4 (vi) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not be
5 credited towards qualification for journeyman electrician unless the
6 training program is used to gain qualification for a two-year
7 electrical specialty.

8 (j) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

9 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
10 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In
11 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.
12 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
13 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
14 the time and place for taking the examination.

15 **Sec. 7.** RCW 19.28.201 and 2001 c 211 s 13 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 The department, in coordination with the board, shall prepare an
18 examination to be administered to applicants for master journeyman
19 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician, and
20 specialty electrician certificates of competency.

21 The department, with the consent of the board, may enter into a
22 contract with a professional testing agency to develop, administer, and
23 score electrician certification examinations. The department may set
24 the examination fee by contract with the professional testing agency.

25 The department must, at least four times annually, administer the
26 examination to persons eligible to take it under RCW 19.28.191. The
27 fee must cover, but not exceed, the costs of preparing and
28 administering the examination.

29 The department must certify the results of the examination upon the
30 terms and after such a period of time as the department, in cooperation
31 with the board, deems necessary and proper.

32 (1)(a) The master electrician's certificates of competency
33 examinations must include questions from the following categories to
34 ensure proper safety and protection for the general public: (i)
35 Safety; (ii) the state electrical code; and (iii) electrical theory.

36 (b) A person may take the master electrician examination as many
37 times as necessary without limit. All applicants must, before taking

1 the examination, pay the required examination fee to the agency
2 administering the examination.

3 (2) The journeyman electrician and specialty electrician
4 examinations shall be constructed to determine:

5 ~~((1))~~ (a) Whether the applicant possesses varied general
6 knowledge of the technical information and practical procedures that
7 are identified with the status of journeyman electrician or specialty
8 electrician; and

9 ~~((2))~~ (b) Whether the applicant is sufficiently familiar with the
10 applicable electrical codes and the rules of the department pertaining
11 to electrical installations and electricians.

12 ~~((The department shall, at least four times annually, administer~~
13 ~~the examination to persons eligible to take it under RCW 19.28.191. A~~
14 ~~person may take the journeyman or specialty test as many times as~~
15 ~~necessary without limit. All applicants shall, before taking the~~
16 ~~examination, pay the required examination fee to the agency~~
17 ~~administering the examination. The fee shall cover but not exceed the~~
18 ~~costs of preparing and administering the examination.~~

19 ~~The department shall certify the results of the examination upon~~
20 ~~such terms and after such a period of time as the department, in~~
21 ~~cooperation with the board, deems necessary and proper.~~

22 ~~(3) The department upon the consent of the board may enter into a~~
23 ~~contract with a professional testing agency to develop, administer, and~~
24 ~~score journeyman and/or specialty electrician certification~~
25 ~~examinations. The department may set the examination fee by contract~~
26 ~~with the professional testing agency.))~~

27 A person may take the examination as many times as necessary
28 without limit. All applicants must, before taking the examination, pay
29 the required examination fee to the agency administering the
30 examination.

31 **Sec. 8.** RCW 19.28.211 and 2001 c 211 s 14 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 (1) The department shall issue a certificate of competency to all
34 applicants who have passed the examination provided in RCW 19.28.201,
35 and who have complied with RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 and the
36 rules adopted under this chapter. The certificate shall bear the date
37 of issuance, and shall expire on the holder's birthday. The
38 certificate shall be renewed every three years, upon application, on or

1 before the holder's birthdate. A fee shall be assessed for each
2 certificate and for each annual renewal.

3 (2) If the certificate holder demonstrates to the department that
4 he or she has satisfactorily completed an annual eight-hour continuing
5 education course, the certificate may be renewed without examination by
6 appropriate application unless the certificate has been revoked,
7 suspended, or not renewed within ninety days after the expiration date.

8 (a) The contents and requirements for satisfactory completion of
9 the continuing education course shall be determined by the director and
10 approved by the board.

11 (b) The department shall accept proof of a certificate holder's
12 satisfactory completion of a continuing education course offered in
13 another state as meeting the requirements for maintaining a current
14 Washington state certificate of competency if the department is
15 satisfied the course is comparable in nature to that required in
16 Washington state for maintaining a current certificate of competency.

17 (3) If the certificate is not renewed before the expiration date,
18 the individual shall pay twice the usual fee. The department shall set
19 the fees by rule for issuance and renewal of a certificate of
20 competency. The fees shall cover but not exceed the costs of issuing
21 the certificates and of administering and enforcing the electrician
22 certification requirements of this chapter.

23 (4) The certificates of competency and temporary permits provided
24 for in this chapter grant the holder the right to work in the
25 electrical construction trade as a master electrician, journeyman
26 electrician, or specialty electrician in accordance with their
27 provisions throughout the state and within any of its political
28 subdivisions without additional proof of competency or any other
29 license, permit, or fee to engage in such work.

30 **Sec. 9.** RCW 19.28.241 and 2001 c 211 s 17 are each amended to read
31 as follows:

32 (1)(a) The department may revoke any certificate of competency upon
33 the following grounds:

34 ((a)) (i) The certificate was obtained through error or fraud;

35 ((b)) (ii) The holder thereof is judged to be incompetent to work
36 in the electrical construction trade as a journeyman electrician or
37 specialty electrician;

1 (~~(e)~~) (iii) The holder thereof has violated any of the provisions
2 of (~~RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271~~) or any rule adopted under this
3 chapter;

4 (iv) For commission of a serious violation that is defined as a
5 violation that presents imminent danger to the public or property.

6 (b) The department may deny an application for a certificate of
7 competency for up to two years if the applicant's previous certificate
8 of competency has been revoked.

9 (2) Before any certificate of competency shall be revoked, the
10 holder shall be given written notice of the department's intention to
11 do so, mailed by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the
12 holder's last known address. The notice shall enumerate the
13 allegations against the holder, and shall give the holder the
14 opportunity to request a hearing before the board. At the hearing, the
15 department and the holder may produce witnesses and give testimony.
16 The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.
17 The board shall render its decision based upon the testimony and
18 evidence presented, and shall notify the parties immediately upon
19 reaching its decision. A majority of the board shall be necessary to
20 render a decision.

21 (3) The department shall immediately suspend the license or
22 certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW
23 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person
24 who is not in compliance with a support order. If the person has
25 continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the
26 suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic
27 upon the department's receipt of a release issued by the department of
28 social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance
29 with the order.

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