

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6586

As Passed House:

March 2, 2004

Title: An act relating to requirements for electrical work on boilers.

Brief Description: Concerning electrical work on boilers.

Sponsors: By Senators Honeyford and Prentice.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Commerce & Labor: 2/23/04 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/2/04, 95-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Extends for one year the moratorium on enforcement of electrical code requirements as applied to maintenance work on the electrical controls of a boiler performed by an employee of a service company.
- Extends for one year the deadline for industry boards to evaluate these requirements and report to the Legislature.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Conway, Chair; Wood, Vice Chair; McMorris, Ranking Minority Member; Condotta, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Crouse, Holmquist, Kenney and McCoy.

Staff: Jill Reinmuth (786-7134).

Background:

The Department of Labor and Industries (Department) administers various state laws governing construction-related businesses and trades, including persons performing electrical and boiler work.

State law requires that most work involving electrical wiring, appliances, devices, and equipment be inspected. It also requires that persons who engage in the business of installing or maintaining certain wires or equipment have either a general electrical contractor license or

an appropriate specialty electrical contractor license. Persons who perform such work must be certified as journey level electricians or appropriate specialty electricians.

State law authorizes the Board of Boiler Rules to make rules governing the safe construction, installation, and use of boilers and unfired pressure vessels. These rules are enforced through annual or biannual safety inspections.

Legislation enacted in 2003 directed the Department to cease administering and enforcing electrical licensing, certification, and permitting/inspection requirements as applied to maintenance work on the electrical controls of a boiler performed by employees of service companies until July 1, 2004. It also directed the Electrical Board and the Board of Boiler Rules to evaluate whether these requirements should apply to such work, and to report their findings and recommendations, if any, to legislative committees by December 1, 2003.

The draft report includes a discussion of several options ranging from exempting certain boiler work from electrical code requirements to establishing new boiler code requirements. A majority of individuals at a stakeholder meeting supported the option of establishing a new boiler electrical specialty within the existing electrical program with oversight of the technical qualifications to be shared by the Electrical Board and the Board of Boiler Rules. None of the individuals supported the option of doing nothing. The draft report included one finding: that appropriate legislation could be developed for consideration in the 2004 legislative session. There were no recommendations.

Summary of Bill:

The moratorium on enforcement of electrical licensing, certification, and permitting/inspection requirements as applied to maintenance work on the electrical controls of a boiler performed by an employee of a service company is extended for one year, until July 1, 2005.

The deadline for the Electrical Board and the Board of Boiler Rules to evaluate whether these requirements should apply to such work, and to report their findings and recommendations, if any, to legislative committees is also extended for one year, until December 1, 2004.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The Electrical Board and the Board of Boiler Rules have met together and with stakeholders to work on these issues. We have made progress, but need additional time to complete our work. The work completed thus far has been valuable. We support the extension of time, and urge you to move this bill.

Testimony Against: None.

Persons Testifying: Senator Honeyford, prime sponsor; Craig Hopkins, Board of Boiler Rules; Richard King, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Tony Oda, Department of Labor and Industries; and Gary Smith, Independent Business Association.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.