

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESB 5984

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As of Third Reading, March 17, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to premanufactured electric power generation equipment assemblies.

**Brief Description:** Regulating power generator installations.

**Sponsors:** Senators Schow, Hochstatter and Prince.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Commerce & Labor: 3/3/97, 3/5/97 [DPS, DNPS].  
Failed Senate, 3/17/97, 23-26.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5984 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Schow, Chair; Horn, Vice Chair; Anderson and Newhouse.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass substitute.

Signed by Senators Franklin, Fraser and Heavey.

**Staff:** Patrick Woods (786-7430)

**Background:** Currently, the Department of Labor and Industries, regulates the business and practice of installing, repairing or maintaining electrical equipment and services. The general process of regulation is as follows:

Electrical Contractors License: In order to engage in the business of installing or servicing electrical equipment, an individual must obtain a contractor's license. A contractor's license is obtained by submitting an application, the payment of a \$200 fee, and the maintenance of a \$4,000 bond.

Certified Electrical Administrator: A licensed contractor is required to have a certified electrical administrator supervising each job site. In order to obtain an administrator's certificate, an individual must pass a comprehensive state test and pay a \$60 license fee.

Journeyman/Specialty Electrician: In order to perform electrical installations or services, an individual worker must complete the necessary training, pass a state examination and pay a certification fee.

Electrical Permits: All electrical installations, repairs or modifications, unless specifically exempt, are required to receive a permit and be inspected by the Department of Labor and Industries or an authorized city agency.

There are certain exceptions to various provisions of this regulatory process including: electrical utility employees working on power lines up to the point of contact with service meters; individuals installing or repairing ignition or lighting systems for motor vehicles; and individuals working on their own residence provided the appropriate permits and inspections are provided.

Manufacturers of power generation equipment are requesting a specific exemption be provided from current state electrical contractor licensing and electrical certification requirements.

**Summary of Bill:** Manufacturers of power generators and their employees are not required to obtain an electrical contractor's license or electrical journeyman/specialty certificate while installing, maintaining or repairing premanufactured power generation or control equipment.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 27, 1997.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Manufacturers of electrical generation equipment are most qualified to work on their own products. The current requirements are costly and burdensome to these manufacturers.

**Testimony Against:** It is very important for public safety to have licensed contractors and certified electricians conducting electrical work of this kind which could have serious consequences if done improperly.

**Testified:** Mark Triplett, NC/Caterpillar (pro); Larry Stevens, National Electrical Contractors Association (con); Dick King, IBEW #46 (con).