
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1361

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Clements, Skinner and Honeyford)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to regulation of electricians and electrical
2 installations; and amending RCW 19.28.510, 19.28.520, and 19.28.530.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.510 and 1996 c 241 s 6 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade
7 without having a current journeyman electrician certificate of
8 competency or a current specialty electrician certificate of competency
9 issued by the department in accordance with this chapter. Electrician
10 certificate of competency specialties include, but are not limited to:
11 Residential, domestic appliances, pump and irrigation, limited energy
12 system, signs, and nonresidential maintenance.

13 (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program
14 approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade
15 or who is learning the electrical construction trade may work in the
16 electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified journeyman
17 electrician or a certified specialty electrician in that electrician's
18 specialty. All apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
19 construction trade shall obtain an electrical training certificate from

1 the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to learn
2 the electrical construction trade while under the direct supervision of
3 a journeyman electrician or a specialty electrician working in his or
4 her specialty. The holder of the electrical training certificate shall
5 renew the certificate annually. At the time of renewal, the holder
6 shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's
7 employers in the electrical construction industry for the previous year
8 and the number of hours worked for each employer. An annual fee shall
9 be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The
10 department shall set the fee by rule. The fee shall cover but not
11 exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee
12 certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.
13 Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade
14 shall have their electrical training certificates in their possession
15 at all times that they are performing electrical work. They shall show
16 their certificates to an authorized representative of the department at
17 the representative's request.

18 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training
19 certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under
20 supervision. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same
21 job site and under the control of either a journeyman electrician or an
22 appropriate specialty electrician who has an applicable certificate of
23 competency issued under this chapter. Either a journeyman electrician
24 or an appropriate specialty electrician shall be on the same job site
25 as the noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of
26 each working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter. ((The
27 ratio of noncertified individuals to certified journeymen or specialty
28 electricians working on a job site shall be:

29 (a) ~~From September 1, 1979, through December 31, 1982, not more~~
30 ~~than three noncertified electricians working on any one job site for~~
31 ~~every certified journeyman or specialty electrician;~~

32 (b) ~~Effective January 1, 1983,~~) (4) The ratio of noncertified
33 individuals to certified journeymen or specialty electricians working
34 on a job site shall be:

35 (a) Not more than two noncertified individuals working on any one
36 job site for every specialty electrician or journeyman electrician
37 working as a specialty electrician((÷

38 (c) ~~Effective January 1, 1983,~~) i and

1 (b) Not more than one noncertified individual working on any one
2 job site for every certified journeyman electrician(~~(-)~~), except that
3 the ratio requirements (~~(do not apply to)~~) shall be one certified
4 journeyman electrician to four students enrolled in and working as part
5 of an electrical construction program at a trade school (~~(program in~~
6 ~~the electrical construction trade established during 1946)~~) licensed by
7 the work force training and education coordinating board under chapter
8 28C.10 RCW and accredited by the accrediting commission of career
9 schools and colleges of technology. In meeting the ratio requirements
10 for students enrolled in an electrical construction program at a trade
11 school, a trade school may receive input and advice from the electrical
12 board.

13 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has
14 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved
15 apprenticeship program or in (~~(a technical school)~~) an electrical
16 construction program (~~(in the electrical construction trade)~~) in a
17 technical or trade school (~~(approved)~~) licensed by the (~~(commission for~~
18 ~~vocational education)~~) work force training and education coordinating
19 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW and accredited by the accrediting
20 commission of career schools and colleges of technology, may work
21 without direct on-site supervision during the last six months of
22 meeting the practical experience requirements of this chapter.

23 (~~(+4)~~) (5) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and
24 attest to the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on
25 behalf of the electrical contractor.

26 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.520 and 1980 c 30 s 3 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 Any person desiring to be issued a certificate of competency as
29 provided in this chapter shall deliver evidence in a form prescribed by
30 the department affirming that said person has met the qualifications
31 required under RCW 19.28.530(~~(, as now or hereafter amended)~~). An
32 electrician from another jurisdiction applying for a certificate of
33 competency must provide evidence in a form prescribed by the department
34 affirming that the person has the equivalent qualifications to those
35 required under RCW 19.28.530.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.530 and 1988 c 81 s 13 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

1 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review
2 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take
3 an examination for the journeyman or specialty certificate of
4 competency.

5 (a) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman
6 certificate the applicant must have:

7 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of
8 four years employed full time, of which two years shall be in
9 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision
10 of a journeyman electrician (~~((certified under this chapter))~~) and not
11 more than a total of two years in all specialties under the supervision
12 of a journeyman electrician (~~((certified under this chapter))~~) or an
13 appropriate specialty electrician (~~((certified under this chapter or
14 have))~~); or

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

17 (b) To be eligible to take the examination to become a specialty
18 electrician the applicant shall have:

19 (i) Worked in that specialty of the electrical construction trade,
20 under the supervision of a journeyman electrician (~~((certified under
21 this chapter))~~) or an appropriate specialty electrician (~~((certified
22 under this chapter))~~), for a minimum of two years employed full
23 time(~~((7))~~); or (~~((have))~~)

24 (ii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program
25 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the electrical
26 construction trade.

27 (~~((Before January 1, 1984, applicants for nonresidential maintenance
28 specialty licenses are eligible to become nonresidential maintenance
29 specialists upon certification to the department that they have the
30 equivalent of two years full-time experience in that specialty field.
31 Persons applying before January 1, 1984, for a journeyman certificate
32 are eligible to take the examination to become journeymen until July 1,
33 1984, upon certification to the department that they have the
34 equivalent of five years full-time experience in nonresidential
35 maintenance, of which two years shall be in industrial electrical
36 installation.))~~)

37 (c) Any applicant who has successfully completed a two-year
38 (~~((technical school))~~) program in the electrical construction trade in a
39 technical or trade school that is (~~((approved))~~) licensed by the

1 (~~commission for vocational education~~) work force training and
2 education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW and accredited by
3 the accrediting commission of career schools and colleges of technology
4 may substitute up to two years of the technical or trade school program
5 for two years of work experience under a journeyman electrician. The
6 applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience
7 required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to
8 the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school
9 program. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical
10 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be
11 eligible to take the examination for the certificate of competency.
12 (~~Any applicant who is a graduate of a trade school program in the~~
13 ~~electrical construction trade that was established during 1946 is~~
14 ~~eligible to take the examination for the certificate of competency.~~)

15 (d) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

16 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
17 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In
18 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.
19 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
20 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
21 the time and place for taking the examination.

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