
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 3003

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Honeyford, Crouse, Mielke, Wensman, Benson,
Clements, Schoesler and Bush

Read first time 01/27/98. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting computer wires and fiber optic cables
2 from electrical wiring requirements; and amending RCW 19.28.010,
3 19.28.200, and 19.28.610.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.010 and 1993 c 275 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) All wires and equipment, and installations thereof, that convey
8 electric current and installations of equipment to be operated by
9 electric current, in, on, or about buildings or structures, except for
10 noncomposite fiber optic cables, telephone, telegraph, radio, and
11 television wires and equipment, and television antenna installations,
12 signal strength amplifiers, and coaxial installations pertaining
13 thereto shall be in strict conformity with this chapter, the statutes
14 of the state of Washington, and the rules issued by the department, and
15 shall be in conformity with approved methods of construction for safety
16 to life and property. All wires and equipment that fall within section
17 90.2(b)(5) of the National Electrical Code, 1981 edition, are exempt
18 from the requirements of this chapter. The regulations and articles in
19 the National Electrical Code, the national electrical safety code, and

1 other installation and safety regulations approved by the national fire
2 protection association, as modified or supplemented by rules issued by
3 the department in furtherance of safety to life and property under
4 authority hereby granted, shall be prima facie evidence of the approved
5 methods of construction. All materials, devices, appliances, and
6 equipment used in such installations shall be of a type that conforms
7 to applicable standards or be indicated as acceptable by the
8 established standards of any electrical product testing laboratory
9 which is accredited by the department. Industrial control panels,
10 utilization equipment, and their components do not need to be listed,
11 labeled, or otherwise indicated as acceptable by an accredited
12 electrical product testing laboratory unless specifically required by
13 the National Electrical Code, 1993 edition.

14 (2) Residential buildings or structures moved into or within a
15 county, city, or town are not required to comply with all of the
16 requirements of this chapter, if the original occupancy classification
17 of the building or structure is not changed as a result of the move.
18 This subsection shall not apply to residential buildings or structures
19 that are substantially remodeled or rehabilitated.

20 (3) This chapter shall not limit the authority or power of any city
21 or town to enact and enforce under authority given by law, any
22 ordinance, rule, or regulation requiring an equal, higher, or better
23 standard of construction and an equal, higher, or better standard of
24 materials, devices, appliances, and equipment than that required by
25 this chapter. A city or town shall require that its electrical
26 inspectors meet the qualifications provided for state electrical
27 inspectors in accordance with RCW 19.28.070. In a city or town having
28 an equal, higher, or better standard the installations, materials,
29 devices, appliances, and equipment shall be in accordance with the
30 ordinance, rule, or regulation of the city or town. Electrical
31 equipment associated with spas, hot tubs, swimming pools, and
32 hydromassage bathtubs shall not be offered for sale or exchange unless
33 the electrical equipment is certified as being in compliance with the
34 applicable product safety standard by bearing the certification mark of
35 an approved electrical products testing laboratory.

36 (4) Nothing in this chapter may be construed as permitting the
37 connection of any conductor of any electric circuit with a pipe that is
38 connected with or designed to be connected with a waterworks piping
39 system, without the consent of the person or persons legally

1 responsible for the operation and maintenance of the waterworks piping
2 system.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.200 and 1992 c 240 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) No license under the provision of this chapter shall be
6 required from any utility or any person, firm, partnership,
7 corporation, or other entity employed by a utility because of work in
8 connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of lines,
9 wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by or under the control of a
10 utility and used for transmission or distribution of electricity from
11 the source of supply to the point of contact at the premises and/or
12 property to be supplied and service connections and meters and other
13 apparatus or appliances used in the measurement of the consumption of
14 electricity by the customer.

15 (2) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
16 required from any utility because of work in connection with the
17 installation, repair, or maintenance of the following:

18 (a) Lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment used in the lighting of
19 streets, alleys, ways, or public areas or squares;

20 (b) Lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by a commercial,
21 industrial, or public institution customer that are an integral part of
22 a transmission or distribution system, either overhead or underground,
23 providing service to such customer and located outside the building or
24 structure: PROVIDED, That a utility does not initiate the sale of
25 services to perform such work;

26 (c) Lines and wires, together with ancillary apparatus, and
27 equipment, owned by a customer that is an independent power producer
28 who has entered into an agreement for the sale of electricity to a
29 utility and that are used in transmitting electricity from an
30 electrical generating unit located on premises used by such customer to
31 the point of interconnection with the utility's system.

32 (3) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity
33 licensed under RCW 19.28.120 may enter into a contract with a utility
34 for the performance of work under subsection (2) of this section.

35 (4) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
36 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
37 entity because of the work of installing and repairing ignition or
38 lighting systems for motor vehicles.

1 (5) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
2 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
3 entity because of work in connection with the installation, repair, or
4 maintenance of wires and equipment, and installations thereof, exempted
5 in RCW 19.28.010.

6 (6) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
7 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
8 entity because of work in connection with the installation, repair, or
9 maintenance of structured communication cabling. For purposes of this
10 section, "structured communication cabling" means twisted pair copper
11 and coaxial cables designed to support analog and digital voice
12 applications, data, local area networks, and video. "Structured
13 communication cabling" does not include the following, all of which are
14 subject to this chapter: Fire protection signaling systems, intrusion
15 alarms, patient monitoring systems, and energy management control
16 systems. Installation of structured communications cabling is subject
17 to adopted electrical installations standards and inspections under RCW
18 19.28.210.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.610 and 1994 c 157 s 1 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 Nothing in RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620 shall be construed to
22 require that a person obtain a license or a certified electrician in
23 order to do electrical work at his or her residence or farm or place of
24 business or on other property owned by him or her unless the electrical
25 work is on the construction of a new building intended for rent, sale,
26 or lease. However, if the construction is of a new residential
27 building with up to four units intended for rent, sale, or lease, the
28 owner may receive an exemption from the requirement to obtain a license
29 or use a certified electrician if he or she provides a signed affidavit
30 to the department stating that he or she will be performing the work
31 and will occupy one of the units as his or her principal residence.
32 The owner shall apply to the department for this exemption and may only
33 receive an exemption once every twenty-four months. It is intended
34 that the owner receiving this exemption shall occupy the unit as his or
35 her principal residence for twenty-four months after completion of the
36 units. Nothing in RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620 shall be intended to
37 derogate from or dispense with the requirements of any valid electrical
38 code enacted by a city or town pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3), except

1 that no code shall require the holder of a certificate of competency to
2 demonstrate any additional proof of competency or obtain any other
3 license or pay any fee in order to engage in the electrical
4 construction trade. RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620 shall not apply to
5 common carriers subject to Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act, nor
6 to their officers and employees. Nothing in RCW 19.28.510 through
7 19.28.620 shall be deemed to apply to the installation or maintenance
8 of telephone, telegraph, radio, or television wires and equipment; nor
9 to any electrical utility or its employees in the installation, repair,
10 and maintenance of electrical wiring, circuits, and equipment by or for
11 the utility, or comprising a part of its plants, lines or systems. The
12 licensing provisions of RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620 shall not apply
13 to:

14 (1) Persons making electrical installations on their own property
15 or to regularly employed employees working on the premises of their
16 employer, unless the electrical work is on the construction of a new
17 building intended for rent, sale, or lease; or

18 (2) Employees of an employer while the employer is performing
19 utility type work of the nature described in RCW 19.28.200 so long as
20 such employees have registered in the state of Washington with or
21 graduated from a state-approved outside lineman apprenticeship course
22 that is recognized by the department and that qualifies a person to
23 perform such work; or

24 (3) Persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, or other entities
25 engaged in the installation, repair, or maintenance of structured
26 communication cabling as defined in RCW 19.28.200(6).

27 Nothing in RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620 shall be construed to
28 restrict the right of any householder to assist or receive assistance
29 from a friend, neighbor, relative or other person when none of the
30 individuals doing the electrical installation hold themselves out as
31 engaged in the trade or business of electrical installations. Nothing
32 precludes any person who is exempt from the licensing requirements of
33 this chapter under this section from obtaining a journeyman or
34 specialty certificate of competency if they otherwise meet the
35 requirements of this chapter.

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