

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 3003**

55th Legislature  
1998 Regular Session

Passed by the House February 12, 1998  
Yeas 60 Nays 36

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**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 10, 1998  
Yeas 27 Nays 22

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Timothy A. Martin, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 3003** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 3003

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Passed Legislature - 1998 Regular Session

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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