
SENATE BILL 6673

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1998 Regular Session

By Senators Schow, T. Sheldon, Horn, Hochstatter, Hale and Swecker

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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