
SENATE BILL 6212

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Third Special Session

By Senators Honeyford and Deccio

Read first time 07/17/2001. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting heating, air conditioning, water
2 heater, and household appliance installation and service from
3 electrical licensing laws; and amending RCW 19.28.261.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.261 and 2001 c 211 s 19 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed to
8 require that a person obtain a license or a certified electrician in
9 order to do electrical work at his or her residence or farm or place of
10 business or on other property owned by him or her unless the electrical
11 work is on the construction of a new building intended for rent, sale,
12 or lease. However, if the construction is of a new residential
13 building with up to four units intended for rent, sale, or lease, the
14 owner may receive an exemption from the requirement to obtain a license
15 or use a certified electrician if he or she provides a signed affidavit
16 to the department stating that he or she will be performing the work
17 and will occupy one of the units as his or her principal residence.
18 The owner shall apply to the department for this exemption and may only
19 receive an exemption once every twenty-four months. It is intended

1 that the owner receiving this exemption shall occupy the unit as his or
2 her principal residence for twenty-four months after completion of the
3 units. Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be intended to
4 derogate from or dispense with the requirements of any valid electrical
5 code enacted by a city or town pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3), except
6 that no code shall require the holder of a certificate of competency to
7 demonstrate any additional proof of competency or obtain any other
8 license or pay any fee in order to engage in the electrical
9 construction trade. RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not apply to
10 common carriers subject to Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act, nor
11 to their officers and employees. Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through
12 19.28.271 shall be deemed to apply to the installation or maintenance
13 of telephone, telegraph, radio, or television wires and equipment; nor
14 to any electrical utility or its employees in the installation, repair,
15 and maintenance of electrical wiring, circuits, and equipment by or for
16 the utility, or comprising a part of its plants, lines or systems. The
17 licensing provisions of RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not apply
18 to:

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

23 (2) Employees of an employer while the employer is performing
24 utility type work of the nature described in RCW 19.28.091 so long as
25 such employees have registered in the state of Washington with or
26 graduated from a state-approved outside lineman apprenticeship course
27 that is recognized by the department and that qualifies a person to
28 perform such work; ((or))

29 (3) Any work exempted under RCW 19.28.091(6); or

30 (4) Persons installing, servicing, maintaining, repairing, or
31 replacing:

32 (a) Low voltage, class 2 HVAC/refrigeration control circuit cables
33 or equipment for irrigation systems, garage door openers, built-in
34 vacuum cleaning systems, control of furnaces, heat pumps, and similar
35 HVAC or refrigeration equipment when such conductors do not connect to
36 other than HVAC or refrigeration equipment and when such buildings do
37 not exceed three floors above grade, except for residential
38 occupancies; or

1 (b) HVAC/refrigeration, water heater, electric range, electric
2 oven, garbage disposal, dishwasher, clothes washers, clothes dryers,
3 ventilation fans, and other common household appliances. This includes
4 replacing the device having no greater electrical supply requirements
5 than the device being replaced if the person uses the same electrical
6 circuit used to power the equipment being replaced, without
7 modification, to operate the replacement equipment. This also includes
8 replacing electrical components within the device, only if the
9 components are like in kind with equivalent voltage and current
10 ratings. This exemption does not allow the installation of branch
11 circuit (line voltage) conductors, services, feeders, panelboards, or
12 disconnect switches to devices exempted by this subsection. Short
13 sections of raceway may be installed for access to or physical
14 protection of cables, however wiring in conduit systems and wiring in
15 classified locations are not included in this exemption.

16 Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed to
17 restrict the right of any householder to assist or receive assistance
18 from a friend, neighbor, relative or other person when none of the
19 individuals doing the electrical installation hold themselves out as
20 engaged in the trade or business of electrical installations. Nothing
21 precludes any person who is exempt from the licensing requirements of
22 this chapter under this section from obtaining a journeyman or
23 specialty certificate of competency if they otherwise meet the
24 requirements of this chapter.

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