

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5212

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Commerce & Trade, February 26, 2003

**Title:** An act relating to electricians.

**Brief Description:** Exempting certain work from the licensing requirements of chapter 19.28 RCW.

**Sponsors:** Senators Honeyford, Rasmussen, Roach, Mulliken, T. Sheldon and Parlette.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Commerce & Trade: 2/13/03, 2/26/03 [DPS, DNP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & TRADE

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5212 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Honeyford, Chair; Hewitt, Vice Chair; and Mulliken.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Franklin and Keiser.

**Staff:** Elizabeth Mitchell (786-7430)

**Background:** The Department of Labor and Industries regulates the electrical profession at both the business and individual level. A license or certification is required unless a specific exemption is stated in law. Property owners are exempt from licensing and certification for work they perform on their property. Employees working on the premises of their employer are also exempt from licensing and certification.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** Licensing and certification is not required for work on, alterations to, or replacement of parts of electrical installations necessary for maintenance on a residential rented or leased property. "New electrical installations or substantial alterations" are not included in this exemption.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** Instead of exempting certain items from electrical contractor requirements, the bill exempts certain work on residential rental properties from electrical licensing and certification requirements. Licensing and certification is not required for work on, alterations to, or replacement of parts of electrical installations necessary for maintenance on a residential rented or leased property. New electrical installations or substantial alterations are not included in this exemption.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** If an owner of a building employs a maintenance person, that person is allowed to do electrical work in an apartment without being certified as an electrician. However, if a building is managed by a property management company, the company's employees cannot do the work without being certified as an electrician.

**Testimony Against:** This bill would decrease public safety. An electrical contractor should be required to do the work exempt in the bill.

**Testified:** PRO: Eric Mewhinney, WAA; Patty Vander Bruch, RHA; Larry Stevens, NELA/MCA (concerns); CON: Janet Lewis, Dick King, IBEW.