
HOUSE BILL 2900

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Schindler, Kessler, Holmquist, McMorris, McDonald, Morris, Condotta, Kristiansen, Crouse and Buck

Read first time 01/22/2004. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to certification of certain specialty electrical
2 administrators and electricians without examination; amending RCW
3 19.28.061; and reenacting and amending RCW 19.28.191.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.061 and 2002 c 249 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Each applicant for an electrical contractor's license, other
8 than an individual, shall designate a supervisory employee or member of
9 the firm to take the required master electrician's or administrator's
10 examination. ((Effective July 1, 1987,)) A supervisory employee
11 designated as the electrical contractor's master electrician or
12 administrator shall be a full-time supervisory employee. This person
13 shall be designated as master electrician or administrator under the
14 license. No person may concurrently qualify as master electrician or
15 administrator for more than one contractor. If the relationship of the
16 master electrician or administrator with the electrical contractor is
17 terminated, the contractor's license is void within ninety days unless
18 another master electrician or administrator is qualified by the board.
19 However, if the master electrician or administrator dies or is

1 otherwise incapacitated, the contractor's license is void within one
2 hundred eighty days unless another master electrician or administrator
3 is qualified by the board. The contractor must notify the department
4 in writing within ten days if the master electrician's or
5 administrator's relationship with the contractor terminates due to the
6 master electrician's or administrator's death or incapacitation.

7 (2) The department must issue an administrator's certificate to all
8 applicants who have passed the examination as provided in RCW 19.28.051
9 and this section, and who have complied with the rules adopted under
10 this chapter, or who qualify to obtain an administrator's certificate
11 without examination under subsection (3) of this section. The
12 administrator's certificate must bear the date of issuance, expires on
13 the holder's birthday, and is nontransferable. The certificate must be
14 renewed every three years, upon application, on or before the holder's
15 birthday.

16 (a) If the certificate holder demonstrates to the department that
17 he or she has satisfactorily completed an annual eight-hour continuing
18 education course, the certificate may be renewed by appropriate
19 application without examination unless the certificate has been
20 revoked, suspended, or not renewed within ninety days after the
21 expiration date.

22 (b) The contents and requirements for satisfactory completion of
23 the continuing education course must be determined by the director and
24 approved by the board.

25 (c) The department must accept proof of a certificate holder's
26 satisfactory completion of a continuing education course offered in
27 another state as meeting the requirements for maintaining a current
28 Washington state certificate if the department is satisfied the course
29 is comparable in nature to that required in Washington state for
30 maintaining a current certificate.

31 (3) Before December 1, 2004, a person who provides evidence in a
32 form prescribed by the department affirming that he or she has worked
33 in the HVAC/refrigeration specialty for a minimum of eight thousand
34 hours may obtain a HVAC/refrigeration specialty electrical
35 administrator certificate of competency without examination.

36 (4) A fee must be assessed for each administrator's certificate and
37 for each renewal. An individual holding more than one administrator's
38 certificate under this chapter is not required to pay fees for more

1 than one certificate. The department must set the fees by rule for
2 issuance and renewal of a certificate. The fees must cover, but not
3 exceed, the costs of issuing the certificates and of administering and
4 enforcing the administrator certification requirements of this chapter.

5 ~~((4))~~ (5) The department may deny an application for an
6 administrator's certificate for up to two years if the applicant's
7 previous administrator's certificate has been revoked for a serious
8 violation and all appeals concerning the revocation have been
9 exhausted. For the purposes of this section only, a serious violation
10 is a violation that presents imminent danger to the public. The
11 certificate may be renewed for a three-year period without examination
12 by appropriate application unless the certificate has been revoked,
13 suspended, or not renewed within ninety days after the expiration date.
14 If the certificate is not renewed before the expiration date, the
15 individual shall pay twice the usual fee. A person may take the
16 administrator's examination as many times as necessary to pass without
17 limit.

18 ~~((5))~~ (6) The designated master electrician or administrator
19 shall:

20 (a) Be a member of the firm or a supervisory employee and shall be
21 available during working hours to carry out the duties of an
22 administrator under this section;

23 (b) Ensure that all electrical work complies with the electrical
24 installation laws and rules of the state;

25 (c) Ensure that the proper electrical safety procedures are used;

26 (d) Ensure that all electrical labels, permits, and licenses
27 required to perform electrical work are used;

28 (e) See that corrective notices issued by an inspecting authority
29 are complied with; and

30 (f) Notify the department in writing within ten days if the master
31 electrician or administrator terminates the relationship with the
32 electrical contractor.

33 ~~((6))~~ (7) The department shall not by rule change the
34 administrator's duties under subsection ~~((5))~~ (6) of this section.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2003 c 399 s 601 and 2003 c 211 s 1 are
36 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

37 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review

1 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take
2 an examination for the master journeyman electrician, journeyman
3 electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician
4 certificate of competency.

5 (a) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid
6 journeyman electrician certificate of competency in effect for the
7 previous four years and a valid general administrator's certificate may
8 apply for a master journeyman electrician certificate of competency
9 without examination.

10 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid
11 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty
12 applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty
13 administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply
14 for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without
15 examination.

16 (c) Before December 1, 2004, a person who provides evidence in a
17 form prescribed by the department affirming that he or she has worked
18 in the HVAC/refrigeration specialty for a minimum of four thousand
19 hours may obtain a HVAC/refrigeration specialty electrician certificate
20 of competency without examination.

21 (d) Before December 1, 2003, the following persons may obtain an
22 equipment repair specialty electrician certificate of competency
23 without examination:

24 (i) A person who has successfully completed an apprenticeship
25 program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the machinist trade; and

26 (ii) A person who provides evidence in a form prescribed by the
27 department affirming that: (A) He or she was employed as of April 1,
28 2003, by a factory-authorized equipment dealer or service company; and
29 (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of four
30 thousand hours.

31 (~~(d)~~) (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a master
32 journeyman electrician certificate of competency the applicant must
33 have possessed a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency
34 for four years.

35 (~~(e)~~) (f) To be eligible to take the examination for a master
36 specialty electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have
37 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in
38 the specialty applied for, for two years.

1 (~~(f)~~) (g) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman
2 certificate of competency the applicant must have:

3 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of
4 eight thousand hours, of which four thousand hours shall be in
5 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision
6 of a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician and not
7 more than a total of four thousand hours in all specialties under the
8 supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician,
9 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,
10 or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.
11 Specialty electricians with less than a four thousand hour work
12 experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that
13 specialty towards qualifying to become a journeyman electrician; or

14 (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved
15 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.

16 (~~(g)~~) (h) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty
17 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have:

18 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46A-
19 930(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46A-
20 930(2)(b)(i)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(c)), limited
21 energy (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(e)(i)), nonresidential
22 maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(f)(i)), or other new
23 nonresidential specialties as determined by the department in rule
24 under the supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman
25 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's
26 specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's
27 specialty for a minimum of four thousand hours; or

28 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by the
29 department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined
30 by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty as determined
31 by the department in rule, or a specialty other than the designated
32 specialties in (~~(g)~~) (h)(i) of this subsection for a minimum of the
33 initial ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the department. The
34 restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty is limited to a maximum
35 of 277 volts and 20 amperes for lighting branch circuits and/or a
36 maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes for other circuits, but excludes
37 the replacement or repair of circuit breakers. The initial period must
38 be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a master journeyman

1 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician
2 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
3 working in that electrician's specialty. After this initial period, a
4 person may take the specialty examination. If the person passes the
5 examination, the person may work unsupervised for the balance of the
6 minimum hours required for certification. A person may not be
7 certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance repair specialty
8 or in a specialty other than the designated specialities in ~~((g))~~
9 (h)(i) of this subsection, however, until the person has worked a
10 minimum of two thousand hours in that specialty, or longer if set by
11 rule by the department; or

12 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program
13 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the electrical
14 construction trade.

15 ~~((h))~~ (i) Any applicant for a journeyman electrician certificate
16 of competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the
17 electrical construction trade at public community or technical
18 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade
19 schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating
20 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two years of the
21 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience
22 under a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician. The
23 applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience
24 required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to
25 the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school
26 program. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical
27 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be
28 eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification
29 to take the examination for the journeyman electrician certificate of
30 competency.

31 ~~((i))~~ (j) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of
32 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a
33 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public
34 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally
35 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the work force
36 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may
37 substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for
38 one year of work experience under a master journeyman electrician,

1 journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
2 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
3 electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in
4 the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United
5 States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards
6 qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty
7 electrician certificate of competency.

8 ~~((+j))~~ (k) The department must determine whether hours of training
9 and experience in the armed services or school program are in the
10 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for hours
11 of work experience. The department must use the following criteria for
12 evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical training programs
13 and work in the electrical construction trade:

14 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of three
15 thousand or more hours.

16 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of two
17 thousand four hundred hours of student/instructor contact time must be
18 technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope of work
19 of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time includes
20 lecture and in-school lab.

21 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that
22 accepts more than one thousand hours transferred from another school's
23 program.

24 (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than two
25 years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time hours
26 proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more than
27 fifty percent of the work experience required to attain certification.

28 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not be
29 credited towards qualification for journeyman electrician unless the
30 training program is used to gain qualification for a four thousand hour
31 electrical specialty.

32 ~~((+k))~~ (l) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

33 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
34 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In
35 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.
36 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
37 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
38 the time and place for taking the examination.

1 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than one
2 year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test for a
3 certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after
4 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of
5 this section, full-time basis means two thousand hours.

--- END ---