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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5210

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Rasmussen, Roach, Mulliken, T. Sheldon,  
Parlette and Stevens

Read first time 01/20/2003. Referred to Committee on Commerce &  
Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to electrician certification; and amending RCW  
2 19.28.191.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2002 c 249 s 5 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review  
7 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take  
8 an examination for the master journeyman electrician, journeyman  
9 electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician  
10 certificate of competency.

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

16 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid  
17 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty

1 applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty  
2 administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply  
3 for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without  
4 examination.

5 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journeyman  
6 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed  
7 a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency for four  
8 years.

9 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty  
10 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed  
11 a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the  
12 specialty applied for, for two years.

13 (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman  
14 certificate of competency the applicant must have:

15 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of  
16 eight thousand hours, of which four thousand hours shall be in  
17 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision  
18 of a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician and not  
19 more than a total of four thousand hours in all specialties under the  
20 supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician,  
21 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,  
22 or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.  
23 Speciality electricians with less than a four thousand hour work  
24 experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that  
25 specialty towards qualifying to become a journeyman electrician; or

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

28 (f) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty  
29 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have:

30 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46A-  
31 930(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46A-  
32 930(2)(b)(i)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(c)), limited  
33 energy (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(e)(i)), nonresidential  
34 maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(f)(i)), (~~restricted~~  
35 ~~nonresidential maintenance as determined by the department in rule,~~)  
36 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the department  
37 in rule under the supervision of 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 for a minimum of four thousand hours; or

4 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by the  
5 department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined  
6 by the department in rule, or a specialty other than the designated  
7 specialties in (f)(i) of this subsection for a minimum of the initial  
8 ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the department. The  
9 restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty is limited to a maximum  
10 of 277 volts and 20 amperes for lighting branch circuits and/or a  
11 maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes for other circuits, but excludes  
12 the replacement or repair of circuit breakers. The initial period must  
13 be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a master journeyman  
14 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician  
15 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
16 working in that electrician's specialty. After this initial period, a  
17 person may take the specialty examination. If the person passes the  
18 examination, the person may work unsupervised for the balance of the  
19 minimum hours required for certification. A person may not be  
20 certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance repair specialty  
21 or in a specialty other than the designated specialties in (f)(i) of  
22 this subsection, however, until the person has worked a minimum of two  
23 thousand hours in that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the  
24 department; or

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

28 (g) Any applicant for a journeyman electrician certificate of  
29 competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the  
30 electrical construction trade at public community or technical  
31 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade  
32 schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating  
33 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two years of the  
34 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience  
35 under a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician. The  
36 applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience  
37 required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to  
38 the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school

1 program. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical  
2 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be  
3 eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification  
4 to take the examination for the journeyman electrician certificate of  
5 competency.

6 (h) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of  
7 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a  
8 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public  
9 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally  
10 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the work force  
11 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may  
12 substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for  
13 one year of work experience under a master journeyman electrician,  
14 journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that  
15 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that  
16 electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in  
17 the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United  
18 States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards  
19 qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty  
20 electrician certificate of competency.

21 (i) The department must determine whether hours of training and  
22 experience in the armed services or school program are in the  
23 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for hours  
24 of work experience. The department must use the following criteria for  
25 evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical training programs  
26 and work in the electrical construction trade:

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

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

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

37 (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than two

1 years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time hours  
2 proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more than  
3 fifty percent of the work experience required to attain certification.

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

8 (j) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

9 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the  
10 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In  
11 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.  
12 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
13 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating  
14 the time and place for taking the examination.

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

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