S-1218.1			

SENATE BILL 5713

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Prentice, Hewitt, Rasmussen, Mulliken, Sheahan and Oke

Read first time 02/07/2003. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Trade.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to electrical contractors; amending RCW 19.28.101,
- 2 19.28.141, 19.28.010, 19.28.371, 18.106.070, 19.28.191, and 18.106.150;
- 3 adding a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW; adding a new section to
- 4 chapter 18.106 RCW; and prescribing penalties.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.101 and 1996 c 241 s 4 are each amended to read 7 as follows:
- 8 (1) The director shall cause an inspector to inspect all wiring,
- 9 appliances, devices, and equipment to which this chapter applies except
- 10 that no inspection or electrical work permit is required for: (a) The
- 11 installation, alteration, or maintenance of all electrical systems for
- 12 travel trailers; or (b) the like-in-kind replacement of a circuit
- 13 breaker, fuse, residential luminaire, lamp, snap switch, dimmer,
- 14 receptacle outlet, thermostat, heating element, luminaire ballast with
- 15 an exact same ballast, contactor, relay, timer, starter, circuit board,
- 16 <u>or similar control component, ten horsepower or smaller motor, or</u>
- 17 electrical work done under RCW 18.106.070. Nothing contained in this
- 18 chapter may be construed as providing any authority for any subdivision

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of government to adopt by ordinance any provisions contained or provided for in this chapter except those pertaining to cities and towns pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3).

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- (2) Upon request, electrical inspections will be made by the department within forty-eight hours, excluding holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays. If, upon written request, the electrical inspector fails to make an electrical inspection within twenty-four hours, the serving utility may immediately connect electrical power to the installation if the necessary electrical work permit is displayed: PROVIDED, That if the request is for an electrical inspection that relates to a mobile home installation, the applicant shall provide proof of a current building permit issued by the local government agency authorized to issue such permits as a prerequisite for inspection approval or connection of electrical power to the mobile home.
- (3) Whenever the installation of any wiring, device, appliance, or equipment is not in accordance with this chapter, or is in such a condition as to be dangerous to life or property, the person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity owning, using, or operating it shall be notified by the department and shall within fifteen days, or such further reasonable time as may upon request be granted, make such repairs and changes as are required to remove the danger to life or property and to make it conform to this chapter. The director. through the inspector, is hereby empowered to disconnect or order the discontinuance of electrical service to conductors or equipment that are found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition and not in accordance with this chapter. Upon making a disconnection the inspector shall attach a notice stating that the conductors have been found dangerous to life or property and are not in accordance with this It is unlawful for any person to reconnect such defective conductors or equipment without the approval of the department, and until the conductors and equipment have been placed in a safe and secure condition, and in a condition that complies with this chapter.
- (4) The director, through the electrical inspector, has the right during reasonable hours to enter into and upon any building or premises in the discharge of his or her official duties for the purpose of making any inspection or test of the installation of new construction or altered electrical wiring, electrical devices, equipment, or material contained in or on the buildings or premises. No electrical

wiring or equipment subject to this chapter may be concealed until it has been approved by the inspector making the inspection. At the time of the inspection, electrical wiring or equipment subject to this chapter must be sufficiently accessible to permit the inspector to employ any testing methods that will verify conformance with the national electrical code and any other requirements of this chapter.

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- (5) Persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, or other entities making electrical installations shall obtain inspection and approval from an authorized representative of the department as required by this chapter before requesting the electric utility to connect to the installations. Electric utilities may connect to the installations if approval is clearly indicated by certification of the electrical work permit required to be affixed to each installation or by equivalent means, except that increased or relocated services may be reconnected immediately at the discretion of the utility before approval if an electrical work permit is displayed. The permits shall be furnished upon payment of the fee to the department.
- (6) The director, subject to the recommendations and approval of the board, shall set by rule a schedule of license and electrical work permit fees that will cover the costs of administration and enforcement of this chapter, except in the case of "small-job electrical work," as defined by the department, where inspections are not required on all electrical projects and the permit fee may be less than the actual costs of conducting an inspection. In the case of appliance installation and repair, the small-job electrical work permit fee may not exceed five dollars per permit and the fee must be imposed on the sale of every nonplug-in appliance and remitted to the jurisdiction responsible for electrical inspections where the electrical work was done. The rules shall be adopted in accordance with the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. No fee may be charged for plug-in mobile homes, recreational vehicles, or portable appliances.
- (7) Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the inspection of any wiring, appliance, device, or equipment, or installations thereof, by any utility or by any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity employed by a utility in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by or under the control of the utility. All work covered by the

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- national electric code not exempted by the 1981 edition of the national electric code 90-2(B)(5) shall be inspected by the department.
 - Sec. 2. RCW 19.28.141 and 2001 c 211 s 9 are each amended to read as follows:

The provisions of RCW 19.28.101 shall not apply:

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- (1) Within the corporate limits of any incorporated city or town which has heretofore adopted and enforced or subsequently adopts and enforces an ordinance requiring an equal, higher or better standard of construction and of materials, devices, appliances and equipment than is required by this chapter.
- (2) Within the service area of an electricity supply agency owned and operated by a city or town which is supplying electricity and enforcing a standard of construction and materials outside its corporate limits at the time this act takes effect: PROVIDED, That such city, town or agency shall henceforth enforce by inspection within its service area outside its corporate limits the same standards of construction and of materials, devices, appliances and equipment as is enforced by the department of labor and industries under the authority of this chapter except that no inspection or electrical work permit is required for: (a) The installation, alteration, or maintenance of all electrical systems for travel trailers; or (b) the like-in-kind replacement of a circuit breaker, fuse, residential luminaire, lamp, snap switch, dimmer, receptacle outlet, thermostat, heating element, luminaire ballast with an exact same ballast, contactor, relay, timer, starter, circuit board, or similar control component, or ten horsepower or smaller motor or electrical work done under RCW 18.106.070 or electrical work done under RCW 19.28.191: PROVIDED FURTHER, That inspection fees charged henceforth in connection with such enforcement shall not exceed those established in RCW 19.28.101 and the cities must also participate in the small-job electrical permit procedures provided by the department in RCW 19.28.101.
- (3) Within the rights of way of state highways, provided the state department of transportation maintains and enforces an equal, higher or better standard of construction and of materials, devices, appliances and equipment than is required by RCW 19.28.010 through 19.28.141 and 19.28.311 through 19.28.361.

- Sec. 3. RCW 19.28.010 and 2001 c 211 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:
- 3 (1) All wires and equipment, and installations thereof, that convey electric current and installations of equipment to be operated by 4 5 electric current, in, on, or about buildings or structures, except for telephone, telegraph, radio, and television wires and equipment, and 6 7 television antenna installations, signal strength amplifiers, and coaxial installations pertaining thereto shall be in strict conformity 8 with this chapter, the statutes of the state of Washington, and the 9 10 rules issued by the department, and shall be in conformity with approved methods of construction for safety to life and property. All 11 12 wires and equipment that fall within section 90.2(b)(5) of the National 13 Electrical Code, 1981 edition, are exempt from the requirements of this 14 chapter. The regulations and articles in the National Electrical Code, the national electrical safety code, and other installation and safety 15 regulations approved by the national fire protection association, as 16 17 modified or supplemented by rules issued by the department in furtherance of safety to life and property under authority hereby 18 granted, shall be prima facie evidence of the approved methods of 19 construction. All materials, devices, appliances, and equipment used 20 21 in such installations shall be of a type that conforms to applicable 22 standards or be indicated as acceptable by the established standards of any electrical product testing laboratory which is accredited by the 23 24 Industrial control panels, utilization equipment, and 25 their components do not need to be listed, labeled, or otherwise indicated as acceptable by an accredited electrical product testing 26 27 laboratory unless specifically required by the National Electrical Code, 1993 edition. 28
 - (2) Residential buildings or structures moved into or within a county, city, or town are not required to comply with all of the requirements of this chapter, if the original occupancy classification of the building or structure is not changed as a result of the move. This subsection shall not apply to residential buildings or structures that are substantially remodeled or rehabilitated.

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(3) This chapter shall not limit the authority or power of any city or town to enact and enforce under authority given by law, any ordinance, rule, or regulation requiring an equal, higher, or better standard of construction and an equal, higher, or better standard of

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materials, devices, appliances, and equipment than that required by this chapter except as provided in RCW 19.28.141 and 19.28.371. A city or town shall require that its electrical inspectors meet the qualifications provided for state electrical inspectors in accordance with RCW 19.28.321. In a city or town having an equal, higher, or better standard the installations, materials, devices, appliances, and equipment shall be in accordance with the ordinance, rule, or regulation of the city or town. Electrical equipment associated with spas, hot tubs, swimming pools, and hydromassage bathtubs shall not be offered for sale or exchange unless the electrical equipment is certified as being in compliance with the applicable product safety standard by bearing the certification mark of an approved electrical products testing laboratory.

- (4) Nothing in this chapter may be construed as permitting the connection of any conductor of any electric circuit with a pipe that is connected with or designed to be connected with a waterworks piping system, without the consent of the person or persons legally responsible for the operation and maintenance of the waterworks piping system.
- **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.28.371 and 1981 c 57 s 1 are each amended to read 21 as follows:
 - (1) Any device used or useful in the diagnosis or treatment of disease or injury which is not in violation of the Medical Device Amendments of 1976, Public Law No. 94-295, 90 Stat. 539, as amended from time to time, and as interpreted by the Food and Drug Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services or its successor, shall be deemed to be in compliance with all requirements imposed by this chapter.
 - (2) No license required by RCW 19.28.041, certification required by RCW 19.28.161, permitting, or inspection required by RCW 19.28.101 is required for the installation, maintenance, or repair of a device used or useful in the diagnosis or treatment of disease or injury as described in subsection (1) of this section. This exemption does not preclude licensing, certification, or permitting and inspection requirements for the installation of raceway/wiring systems supplying such devices.

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- NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 19.28 RCW to read as follows:
- 3 No license required by RCW 19.28.041, certification required by RCW
- 4 19.28.161, permit, or inspection required by RCW 19.28.101 is required
- of any person, firm, or corporation to do electrical work as described
- 6 in section 6 of this act.

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- NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 18.106 RCW to read as follows:
- 9 (1) Nothing in chapter 19.28 RCW may be construed to require a 10 person to obtain a license required by RCW 19.28.041, be a certified 11 electrician required by RCW 19.28.161, obtain an electrical permit, or 12 have their work inspected as required by RCW 19.28.101 if:
- 13 (a) A person is a plumber currently certified under this chapter, 14 has been issued an electrical endorsement, and is registered or doing 15 the work for a contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW;
 - (b) A person does electrical work that is incidental to doing plumbing, which includes disconnecting and reconnecting electrical supplies in the performance of their plumbing work and like-for-like replacements of plumbing fixtures and components of plumbing fixtures that require electrical supply. For the purposes of this section, a plumbing fixture is any fixture that is connected to a potable water supply;
 - (c) A person does not install, repair, or modify branch circuits conductors, services, feeders, panelboards, disconnect switches, or raceway/conductor systems to or interconnecting multiple electrical devices. The person may disconnect and reconnect low voltage control and line voltage supply whips not over six inches in length, provided there are no modifications to the characteristics of the branch circuit; and
- 30 (d) A person encounters electrical hazards while doing work under 31 this section, the person notifies the owner.
- 32 (2) It is a violation of this chapter for a person to make an 33 electrical connection if a hazard exists.
- 34 **Sec. 7.** RCW 18.106.070 and 1997 c 326 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:
- 36 (1) The department shall issue a certificate of competency to all

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applicants who have passed the examination and have paid the fee for the certificate. The certificate shall bear the date of issuance, and shall expire on the birthdate of the holder immediately following the date of issuance. The certificate shall be renewable every other year, upon application, on or before the birthdate of the holder. ((A renewal fee shall be assessed for each certificate.)) The department shall renew a certificate of competency if the applicant: (a) Pays the renewal fee assessed by the department; and (b) during the past two years has completed sixteen hours of continuing education approved by the department with the advice of the advisory board, including four hours related to electrical safety. If a person fails to renew the certificate by the renewal date, he or she must pay a doubled fee. the person does not renew the certificate within ninety days of the renewal date, he or she must retake the examination and pay the examination fee.

The journeyman plumber and specialty plumber certificates of competency, the medical gas piping installer endorsement, and the temporary permit provided for in this chapter grant the holder the right to engage in the work of plumbing as a journeyman plumber, specialty plumber, or medical gas piping installer, in accordance with their provisions throughout the state and within any of its political subdivisions on any job or any employment without additional proof of competency or any other license or permit or fee to engage in the work. This section does not preclude employees from adhering to a union security clause in any employment where such a requirement exists.

approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the plumbing construction trade or who is learning the plumbing construction trade may work in the plumbing construction trade if supervised by a certified journeyman plumber or a certified specialty plumber in that plumber's specialty. All apprentices and individuals learning the plumbing construction trade shall obtain a plumbing training certificate from the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to learn the plumbing construction trade while under the direct supervision of a journeyman plumber or a specialty plumber working in his or her specialty. The holder of the plumbing training certificate shall renew the certificate annually. At the time of renewal, the holder shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's employers in the

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plumbing construction industry for the previous year and the number of hours worked for each employer. An annual fee shall be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The department shall set the fee by rule. The fee shall cover but not exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee certification and supervision requirements of this chapter. Apprentices and individuals learning the plumbing construction trade shall have their plumbing training certificates in their possession at all times that they are performing plumbing work. They shall show their certificates to an authorized representative of the department at the representative's request.

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(3) Any person who has been issued a plumbing training certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under supervision. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same job site and under the control of either a journeyman plumber or an appropriate specialty plumber who has an applicable certificate of competency issued under this chapter. Either a journeyman plumber or appropriate specialty plumber shall be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter. The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified journeymen or specialty plumbers working on a job site shall be: (a) From July 28, 1985, through June 30, 1988, not more than three noncertified plumbers working on any one job site for every certified journeyman or specialty plumber; (b) effective July 1, 1988, not more than two noncertified plumbers working on any one job site for every certified specialty plumber or journeyman plumber working as a specialty plumber; and (c) effective July 1, 1988, not more than one noncertified plumber working on any one job site for every certified journeyman plumber working as a journeyman plumber.

An individual who has a current training certificate and who has successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved apprenticeship program or in a technical school program in the plumbing construction trade in a school approved by the work force training and education coordinating board, may work without direct on-site supervision during the last six months of meeting the practical experience requirements of this chapter.

(4) An individual who has a current training certificate and who has successfully completed or is currently enrolled in a medical gas piping installer training course approved by the department may work on

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medical gas piping systems if the individual is under the direct supervision of a certified medical gas piping installer who holds a medical gas piping installer endorsement one hundred percent of a working day on a one-to-one ratio.

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- (5) The training to become a certified plumber must include not less than sixteen hours of classroom training established by the director with the advice of the board and the department's chief electrical inspector. The classroom training must include, but not be limited to, electrical wiring safety, grounding, bonding, and other related items plumbers need to know to work under section 6 of this act.
- (6) All persons who are certified plumbers before January 1, 2003, are deemed to have received the classroom training required in subsection (5) of this section.
- 15 **Sec. 8.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2002 c 249 s 5 are each amended to read 16 as follows:
 - (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take an examination for the master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician certificate of competency.
 - (a) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency in effect for the previous four years and a valid general administrator's certificate may apply for a master journeyman electrician certificate of competency without examination.
 - (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without examination.
- 33 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journeyman 34 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed 35 a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency for four 36 years.

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

- (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman certificate of competency the applicant must have:
- (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of eight thousand hours, of which four thousand hours shall be in industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision of a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician and not more than a total of four thousand hours in all specialties under the supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Speciality electricians with less than a four thousand hour work experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that specialty towards qualifying to become a journeyman electrician; or
- (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.
- (f) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have:
- (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(b)(i)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(c)), limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(e)(i)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(f)(i)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the department in rule under the supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of four thousand hours; or
- (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by the department in rule that includes installation of a standard plug-in receptacle on the end of the existing supply cable to the appliance being replaced if the replacement appliance is supplied by the manufacturer with a plug-in connection rather than a direct-wire connection, and without any other modifications to the branch circuit,

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equipment repair and service specialty, or a specialty other than the 1 2 designated specialties in (f)(i) of this subsection for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the department. 3 The initial period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision 4 of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master 5 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or 6 7 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. 8 the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised for 9 10 the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance repair 11 12 specialty or in a specialty other than the designated specialities in 13 (f)(i) of this subsection, however, until the person has worked a 14 minimum of two thousand hours in that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department; or 15

- (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the electrical construction trade or equipment service or repair for the equipment service and repair specialty.
- (g) Any applicant for a journeyman electrician certificate of competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the electrical construction trade at public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two years of the technical or trade school program for two years of work experience under a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician. applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school Any applicant who has received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification to take the examination for the journeyman electrician certificate of competency.
- (h) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public

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community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade school licensed by the work force training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for one year of work experience under a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United States may be eliqible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

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

- (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of three thousand or more hours.
- (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of two thousand four hundred hours of student/instructor contact time must be technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope of work of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time includes lecture and in-school lab.
- (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that accepts more than one thousand hours transferred from another school's program.
- (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than two years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time hours proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more than fifty percent of the work experience required to attain certification.
- (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not be credited towards qualification for journeyman electrician unless the training program is used to gain qualification for a four thousand hour electrical specialty.
 - (j) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

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

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

12 **Sec. 9.** RCW 18.106.150 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 175 s 15 are each 13 amended to read as follows:

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require that a person obtain a license or a certified plumber in order to do plumbing work at his or her residence or farm or place of business or on other property owned by him or her. Any person performing plumbing work on a farm may do so without having a current certificate of competency or apprentice permit: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing in this chapter shall be intended to derogate from or dispense with the requirements of any valid plumbing code enacted by a political subdivision of the state, except that no code shall require the holder of a certificate of competency to demonstrate any additional proof of competency or obtain any other license or pay any fee in order to engage in the trade of plumbing: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this chapter shall not apply to common carriers subject to Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act, nor to their officers and employees: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this chapter shall be construed to apply to any farm, business, industrial plant, or corporation doing plumbing work on premises it owns or operates: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this chapter shall be construed to restrict the right of any householder to assist or receive assistance from a friend, neighbor, relative or other person when none of the individuals doing such plumbing hold themselves out as engaged in the trade or business of plumbing.

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to require a person that has been issued a certificate as a journeyman electrician or residential specialty electrician under chapter 19.28 RCW and employed

by an electrical contractor licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW to obtain 1 2 a license or be a certified plumber as otherwise required by this chapter to do plumbing work that is incidental to doing the electrical 3 work within their authorized scope of work to do like-for-like 4 replacements of plumbing fixtures and components of plumbing fixtures 5 that require an electrical supply to operate. For the purposes of this б section, a plumbing fixture is any fixture that is connected to a 7 potable water supply, provided that the electrician does not install, 8 repair, or modify the potable water supply system other than to 9 disconnect and reconnect the plumbing connections to the fixture. 10

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