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HOUSE BILL 3045

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Conway, Ormsby and Simpson

Read first time 01/18/2006. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            AN ACT Relating to sprinkler fitters; adding a new chapter to Title  
2 18 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply  
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

6            (1) "Advisory board" means the state advisory board of sprinkler  
7 fitters.

8            (2) "Certificate" means a certificate of competency granted by the  
9 director under the terms of this chapter, and is valid within the state  
10 and all political subdivisions and meets all of the requirements for  
11 license or certification that may be applied by the political  
12 subdivisions.

13            (3) "Contractor" means any person, corporation, or other entity,  
14 licensed under the provisions of chapter 18.160 RCW, which performs any  
15 work covered by the provisions of this chapter.

16            (4) "Director" means the state director of fire protection.

17            (5) "Fire protection sprinkler fitting" means installing, testing,  
18 altering, repairing, inspecting, renovating, and maintaining sprinkler,  
19 standpipe, hose, or other hazard systems for fire protection purposes,

1 that is an assembly of underground or overhead piping or conduit  
2 beginning at the connection to the primary water supply, whether public  
3 or private, fire hydrants, hydrant mains, sprinkler tank heaters, air  
4 lines, linear detection systems, aspirating detection systems, and all  
5 tanks and pumps attached thereto.

6 (6) "Journey-level sprinkler fitter" means any person who has been  
7 issued a certificate of competency by the director as provided by this  
8 chapter.

9 (7) "NFPA 13-D" means the standard in use by the national fire  
10 protection association for the installation of fire protection  
11 sprinkler systems in one and two-family dwellings and manufactured  
12 homes whenever the provisions of this chapter are applied.

13 (8) "NFPA 13-R" means the standard in use by the national fire  
14 protection association for the installation of fire protection  
15 sprinkler systems in residential dwellings up to and including four  
16 stories in height whenever the provisions of this chapter are applied.

17 (9) "Residential sprinkler fitter" means anyone who has been issued  
18 a residential certificate of competency limited to installation,  
19 maintenance, and repair of the fire protection sprinkler system of  
20 residential occupancies as defined by NFPA 13-D and NFPA 13-R.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) No person may engage in the trade of  
22 fire protection sprinkler fitting without having a valid journey-level  
23 sprinkler fitter certificate of competency, residential sprinkler  
24 fitter certificate of competency, or temporary permit.

25 (2) No contractor may employ a person in violation of subsection  
26 (1) of this section to perform fire protection sprinkler fitting work.

27 (3) A person found by the director to have committed an infraction  
28 under this chapter shall be assessed a monetary penalty of five hundred  
29 dollars.

30 (4) Each day in which a person engages in the trade of fire  
31 protection sprinkler fitting in violation of subsection (1) of this  
32 section or employs a person in violation of subsection (2) of this  
33 section is considered a separate infraction.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A person who applies for a journey-level  
35 sprinkler fitter certificate of competency as provided in this chapter

1 shall provide evidence to the director that he or she has completed  
2 eight thousand hours of trade-related fire protection sprinkler fitting  
3 experience.

4 (2) Any person who applies for a residential sprinkler fitter  
5 certificate of competency as provided in this chapter shall provide  
6 evidence to the director that he or she has completed four thousand  
7 hours of trade-related fire protection sprinkler fitting or residential  
8 fire protection sprinkler experience.

9 (3) An applicant for a certificate of competency shall submit an  
10 application to the director and pay a fifty-dollar application fee.

11 (4) The director may grant and issue temporary permits in lieu of  
12 certificates of competency when a journey-level sprinkler fitter or  
13 residential sprinkler fitter from another state, who meets the  
14 requirements of this section, submits an application with a fifty-  
15 dollar filing fee for a temporary permit to engage in fire protection  
16 sprinkler fitting as a journey-level sprinkler fitter or as a  
17 residential sprinkler fitter until such time as an application for a  
18 certificate of competency is submitted and approved. A temporary  
19 certificate may not be granted for a period of more than ninety days  
20 from the date of issuance.

21 (5) The director may, upon receipt of an application for  
22 examination waiver, grant a certificate of competency without  
23 examination to any applicant who is a certified journey-level sprinkler  
24 fitter or residential sprinkler fitter from a state whose requirements  
25 for certification are at least substantially equivalent to the  
26 requirements of this state, and which extends the same privileges of  
27 reciprocity to journey-level sprinkler fitters or residential sprinkler  
28 fitters certified in this state.

29 (6) The director shall grant a certificate of competency without an  
30 examination to all applicants who, during the ninety days following the  
31 effective date of this section, submit an application for such  
32 certification, along with a fifty-dollar filing fee and evidence of his  
33 or her employment as a journey-level sprinkler fitter or residential  
34 sprinkler fitter for a period of not less than eight thousand hours.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The director, with the advice of the  
36 advisory board established in section 6 of this act, shall prepare a

1 written examination to be administered to applicants for certificates  
2 of competency for journey-level sprinkler fitter and residential  
3 sprinkler fitter.

4 (2) The director shall administer the written examination to  
5 eligible persons. Prior to taking the examination, all applicants  
6 shall pay an examination fee of fifty dollars to the director.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The director shall issue a certificate  
8 of competency to all eligible applicants who pass the written  
9 examination required under section 4 of this act. The certificate must  
10 bear the date of issuance and expires three years following the date of  
11 issuance. A person may renew his or her certification by submitting to  
12 the director an application for renewal with an application fee of  
13 fifty dollars.

14 (2) If a person fails to renew the certificate prior to its  
15 expiration, he or she must reapply for certification in accordance with  
16 this section, and retake the written examination required under section  
17 4 of this act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) There is created a state advisory board  
19 of sprinkler fitters, composed of five members as follows: Two  
20 journey-level sprinkler fitters, appointed by the governor; two  
21 contractors licensed under chapter 18.160 RCW, appointed by the  
22 governor; and the director or the director's designee.

23 (2) The terms of one journey-level sprinkler fitter and one  
24 contractor expire two years after appointment; and the terms of the  
25 second journey-level sprinkler fitter and the second contractor expire  
26 three years after appointment. Upon the expiration of each term, a new  
27 member must be appointed by the governor to serve for a term of three  
28 years.

29 (3) The advisory board shall carry out all the functions and duties  
30 set forth in this chapter, as well as generally advise the director on  
31 all matters relating to this chapter.

32 (4) Each member of the advisory board must be reimbursed for travel  
33 expenses when attending scheduled meetings of the advisory board.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The fire protection sprinkler fitting  
35 certificate account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.

1 All receipts from fees established under this chapter must be deposited  
2 into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for  
3 administering this chapter. Only the director or the director's  
4 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is  
5 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an  
6 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** An authorized representative of the director  
8 may investigate alleged violations of this chapter. Upon request of an  
9 authorized representative, a person performing fire protection  
10 sprinkler fitting or residential sprinkler fitting work must produce  
11 evidence that he or she has a certificate or permit issued by the  
12 director in accordance with this chapter. Failure to produce such  
13 evidence is an infraction as provided in section 2 of this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A person wishing to appeal a determination  
15 of infraction under this chapter must file an appeal within twenty days  
16 of the date of the notice of infraction in accordance with chapter  
17 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act constitute  
19 a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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