
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1968

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Simpson, Conway and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 2/28/07.

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

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

14 (3) "Director" means the state director of fire protection.

15 (4) "Fire protection sprinkler fitting" means installing, testing,
16 altering, repairing, inspecting, and maintaining sprinkler, standpipe,
17 hose, or other hazard systems for fire protection purposes that is an
18 assembly of piping or conduit beginning at the connection to the

1 primary water supply within a building, sprinkler tank heaters, air
2 lines, linear detection systems, aspirating detection systems, and all
3 tanks and pumps attached thereto.

4 (5) "Journey-level sprinkler fitter" means any person who has been
5 issued a certificate by the director as provided by this chapter.

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

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

14 (8) "Person" means a natural person, including an owner, manager,
15 partner, officer, employee, or occupant.

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

20 (10) "Trainee" means anyone who has been issued a training
21 certificate by the director who is learning the fire protection
22 sprinkler fitting trade under the direct supervision of a journey-level
23 sprinkler fitter or residential sprinkler fitter.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) This chapter shall be administered by
25 the director.

26 (2) The director may adopt rules necessary for the administration
27 of this chapter.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) No person may engage in the trade of
29 fire protection sprinkler fitting without having a valid journey-level
30 sprinkler fitter certificate, residential sprinkler fitter certificate,
31 training certificate, or temporary certificate, with the exception of
32 a certified plumber installing a residential fire protection sprinkler
33 system connected to potable water requiring a plumbing certificate.

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

1 (3) A person found by the director to have committed an infraction
2 under this chapter shall be assessed a monetary penalty as set by rule.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director shall adopt a written
8 examination to be administered to applicants for certificates.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Every applicant for a certificate shall
10 pay an examination fee and satisfactorily pass an examination as
11 provided by rule.

12 (2) Every applicant for a certificate shall apply to the director
13 on an application form provided by the director and pay the application
14 fee as provided by rule.

15 (3) Every applicant for a journey-level sprinkler fitter
16 certificate shall provide evidence to the director on a form provided
17 by the director of at least eight thousand hours of trade-related fire
18 protection sprinkler fitting experience.

19 (4) Every applicant for a residential sprinkler fitter certificate
20 shall provide evidence to the director on a form provided by the
21 director of at least four thousand hours of trade-related fire
22 protection sprinkler fitting or residential sprinkler fitting
23 experience.

24 (5) Every applicant for a training certificate shall provide
25 evidence to the director on a form provided by the director of trade-
26 related employment by a contractor.

27 (6) The director may grant a one-time temporary certificate without
28 examination to applicants who:

29 (a) Prior to ninety days after the effective date of this act,
30 submit an application to the director on a form provided by the
31 director;

32 (b) Meet the requirements of subsection (3) or (4) of this section;
33 and

34 (c) Pay an application fee as provided by rule.

35 (7) A temporary certificate remains in effect for up to one year.

1 (8) The director may grant a certificate without examination to any
2 applicant who is a journey-level sprinkler fitter or residential
3 sprinkler fitter from a state whose requirements for certification are
4 at least substantially equivalent to the requirements of this state,
5 and which extends the same privileges of reciprocity to journey-level
6 sprinkler fitters or residential sprinkler fitters from this state.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) A certificate expires on December 31st.

8 (2) The certificate shall be renewed every other year.

9 (3) Before the expiration date of the certificate, every applicant
10 shall reapply to the director on an application form provided by the
11 director and pay the application fee as provided by rule.

12 (4) If a certificate is not renewed before its expiration date, an
13 applicant must:

14 (a) Apply to the director on an application form provided by the
15 director;

16 (b) Pay an application fee to the director as provided by rule;

17 (c) Pay an examination fee as provided by rule; and

18 (d) Successfully pass the written examination required by this
19 chapter.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** All receipts from fees and charges or from
21 the money generated by the rules adopted under this chapter shall be
22 deposited into the fire protection contractor license fund created in
23 RCW 18.160.050 and used for the purposes authorized under this chapter.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** An authorized representative of the director
25 may investigate alleged violations of this chapter. Upon request of an
26 authorized representative, a person performing fire protection
27 sprinkler fitting or residential sprinkler fitting work must produce
28 evidence of a certificate issued by the director in accordance with
29 this chapter. Failure to produce such evidence is an infraction as
30 provided by section 3 of this act.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A person wishing to appeal a determination
32 of infraction under this chapter must file an appeal within twenty days
33 of the date of the notice of infraction in accordance with chapter
34 34.05 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The director shall immediately suspend any
2 certificate issued under this chapter if the holder has been certified
3 pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health
4 services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order. If
5 the person has continued to meet all other requirements for
6 certification during the suspension, reissuance of the certificate
7 shall be automatic upon the director's receipt of a release issued by
8 the department of social and health services stating that the person is
9 in compliance with the order.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act
11 constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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