
HOUSE BILL 1968

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Simpson, Conway and Ormsby

Read first time 02/02/2007. 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) "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, renovating, 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.** This chapter shall be administered by the
25 director.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (b) Meet the requirements of subsection (3) or (4) of this section;
31 and

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

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

34 (8) The director may grant a certificate without examination to any
35 applicant who is a journey-level sprinkler fitter or residential
36 sprinkler fitter from a state whose requirements for certification are

1 at least substantially equivalent to the requirements of this state,
2 and which extends the same privileges of reciprocity to journey-level
3 sprinkler fitters or residential sprinkler fitters from this state.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) A certificate expires on the birthday of
5 the applicant immediately following one year after the date of
6 issuance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** An authorized representative of the director
24 may investigate alleged violations of this chapter. Upon request of an
25 authorized representative, a person performing fire protection
26 sprinkler fitting or residential sprinkler fitting work must produce
27 evidence of a certificate issued by the director in accordance with
28 this chapter. Failure to produce such evidence is an infraction as
29 provided by section 2 of this act.

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

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

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