
Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 1055

Brief Description: Requiring workers to have licenses, certificates, or permits in their possession when performing work in certain construction trades.

Sponsors: Representatives Moeller, Williams, Conway, Wood and Simpson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires persons doing electrical, plumbing, and conveyance work to have their licenses and certificates in their possession, and to produce their licenses and certificates upon request.
- Requires that licenses and certificates be wallet size, made of durable material, and include photo identification.

Hearing Date: 1/23/09

Staff: Jill Reinmuth (786-7134)

Background:

The Department of Labor and Industries administers and enforces state laws governing certain construction-related trades. These laws require persons who perform electrical, plumbing, or conveyance work to have appropriate certificates of competency or licenses. Persons who perform such work without appropriate certificates or licenses, as well as persons who employ them, are subject to civil penalties ranging from \$250 to \$500 for violations of the electrician certification requirement, \$250 to \$1,000 for violations of the plumber certification requirement, and \$500 for violations of the elevator mechanic licensing requirement.

Summary of Bill:

The Legislature finds that dishonest contractors sometimes hire unlicensed and uncertified persons to perform electrical, plumbing, and conveyance work. This practice gives them an unfair competitive advantage. Requiring persons to have their licenses and certificates in their

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possession while performing this work will help address the problems of the underground economy in the construction industry.

While performing electrical, plumbing, or conveyance work, persons must have their licenses and certificates in their possession. They must produce their licenses and certificates upon request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor and Industries. The licenses and certificates must be wallet size, made of durable material, and include photo identification. These requirements apply to persons applying for and renewing licenses and certificates after July 1, 2010.

Rules Authority: The bill does not address the rule-making powers of an agency.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.