
SENATE BILL 5021

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Holmquist, McCaslin, Morton, and Swecker

Read first time 01/12/09. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection.

1 AN ACT Relating to standards for electricity generated from
2 renewable resources; amending RCW 19.28.010; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that electricity
6 generated from renewable energy sources promotes sustainable energy
7 alternatives and can help to replace the need for oil and natural gas.
8 The legislature also recognizes that to ensure the development and
9 implementation of these types of electricity generating projects,
10 regulatory barriers should be removed or minimized where appropriate
11 and possible.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.010 and 2001 c 211 s 2 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) All wires and equipment, and installations thereof, that convey
15 electric current and installations of equipment to be operated by
16 electric current, in, on, or about buildings or structures, except for
17 telephone, telegraph, radio, and television wires and equipment, and
18 television antenna installations, signal strength amplifiers, and

1 coaxial installations pertaining thereto shall be in strict conformity
2 with this chapter, the statutes of the state of Washington, and the
3 rules issued by the department, and shall be in conformity with
4 approved methods of construction for safety to life and property. All
5 wires and equipment that fall within section 90.2(b)(5) of the National
6 Electrical Code, 1981 edition, are exempt from the requirements of this
7 chapter. The regulations and articles in the National Electrical Code,
8 the national electrical safety code, and other installation and safety
9 regulations approved by the national fire protection association, as
10 modified or supplemented by rules issued by the department in
11 furtherance of safety to life and property under authority hereby
12 granted, shall be prima facie evidence of the approved methods of
13 construction. All materials, devices, appliances, and equipment used
14 in such installations shall be of a type that conforms to applicable
15 standards or be indicated as acceptable by the established standards of
16 any electrical product testing laboratory which is accredited by the
17 department. Industrial control panels, utilization equipment, and
18 their components do not need to be listed, labeled, or otherwise
19 indicated as acceptable by an accredited electrical product testing
20 laboratory unless specifically required by the National Electrical
21 Code, 1993 edition.

22 (2) Residential buildings or structures moved into or within a
23 county, city, or town are not required to comply with all of the
24 requirements of this chapter, if the original occupancy classification
25 of the building or structure is not changed as a result of the move.
26 This subsection shall not apply to residential buildings or structures
27 that are substantially remodeled or rehabilitated.

28 (3) An alternative energy source that generates electricity from
29 renewable resources, as the term "renewable resources" is defined in
30 RCW 19.29A.010, and that meets the installation requirements of the
31 receiving utility is not required to comply with the requirements of
32 this chapter.

33 (4) This chapter shall not limit the authority or power of any city
34 or town to enact and enforce under authority given by law, any
35 ordinance, rule, or regulation requiring an equal, higher, or better
36 standard of construction and an equal, higher, or better standard of
37 materials, devices, appliances, and equipment than that required by
38 this chapter. A city or town shall require that its electrical

1 inspectors meet the qualifications provided for state electrical
2 inspectors in accordance with RCW 19.28.321. In a city or town having
3 an equal, higher, or better standard the installations, materials,
4 devices, appliances, and equipment shall be in accordance with the
5 ordinance, rule, or regulation of the city or town. Electrical
6 equipment associated with spas, hot tubs, swimming pools, and
7 hydromassage bathtubs shall not be offered for sale or exchange unless
8 the electrical equipment is certified as being in compliance with the
9 applicable product safety standard by bearing the certification mark of
10 an approved electrical products testing laboratory.

11 ~~((4))~~ (5) Nothing in this chapter may be construed as permitting
12 the connection of any conductor of any electric circuit with a pipe
13 that is connected with or designed to be connected with a waterworks
14 piping system, without the consent of the person or persons legally
15 responsible for the operation and maintenance of the waterworks piping
16 system.

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