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HOUSE BILL 2254

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State of Washington

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By Representatives Manweller, Sells, and Johnson

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to telecommunications work experience for purposes  
2 of eligibility toward limited energy specialty electrician  
3 certification; and amending RCW 19.28.191.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2013 c 23 s 30 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review  
8 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take  
9 an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey level  
10 electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician  
11 certificate of competency.

12 (a) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid journey  
13 level electrician certificate of competency in effect for the previous  
14 four years and a valid general administrator's certificate may apply  
15 for a master journey level electrician certificate of competency  
16 without examination.

17 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid  
18 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty  
19 applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty

1 administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply  
2 for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without  
3 examination.

4 (c) Before December 1, 2003, the following persons may obtain an  
5 equipment repair specialty electrician certificate of competency  
6 without examination:

7 (i) A person who has successfully completed an apprenticeship  
8 program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the machinist trade; and

9 (ii) A person who provides evidence in a form prescribed by the  
10 department affirming that: (A) He or she was employed as of April 1,  
11 2003, by a factory-authorized equipment dealer or service company; and  
12 (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of four  
13 thousand hours.

14 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journey  
15 level electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
16 possessed a valid journey level electrician certificate of competency  
17 for four years.

18 (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty  
19 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
20 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in  
21 the specialty applied for, for two years.

22 (f) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey level  
23 certificate of competency, the applicant must have:

24 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of  
25 eight thousand hours, of which four thousand hours shall be in  
26 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision  
27 of a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician and  
28 not more than a total of four thousand hours in all specialties under  
29 the supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level  
30 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's  
31 specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's  
32 specialty. Specialty electricians with less than a four thousand hour  
33 work experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain  
34 that specialty towards qualifying to become a journey level  
35 electrician; or

36 (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved  
37 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.

1 (g)(i) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty  
2 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have:

3 ((+i)) (A) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-  
4 920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-  
5 920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited  
6 energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential  
7 maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)), or other new  
8 nonresidential specialties as determined by the department in rule  
9 under the supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey  
10 level electrician, master specialty electrician working in that  
11 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that  
12 electrician's specialty for a minimum of four thousand hours;

13 ((+ii)) (B) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined  
14 by the department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as  
15 determined by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty as  
16 determined by the department in rule, the pump and irrigation specialty  
17 other than as defined by (g)(i)(A) of this subsection or domestic pump  
18 specialty as determined by the department in rule, or a specialty other  
19 than the designated specialties in (g)(i)(A) of this subsection for a  
20 minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the  
21 department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty is  
22 limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for lighting branch  
23 circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes for other  
24 circuits, but excludes the replacement or repair of circuit breakers.  
25 The initial period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision  
26 of a master journey level electrician, journey level electrician,  
27 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,  
28 or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.  
29 After this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination.  
30 If the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised  
31 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A  
32 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance  
33 repair specialty or in a specialty other than the designated  
34 (~~specialities~~) specialties in (g)(i)(A) of this subsection, however,  
35 until the person has worked a minimum of two thousand hours in that  
36 specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department; or

37 ((+iii)) (C) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship

1 program under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the  
2 electrical construction trade(~~(i-iv)~~).

3 ~~((i-iv))~~ (ii) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and  
4 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be  
5 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same  
6 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW  
7 18.106.040(1)(c). After meeting the training requirements provided in  
8 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon passing  
9 the examination, meeting additional training requirements as may still  
10 be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a domestic pump  
11 specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying the applicable  
12 fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate certificate. The  
13 department may include an examination for specialty plumbing  
14 certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) with the examination  
15 required by this section. The department, by rule and in consultation  
16 with the electrical board, may establish additional equivalent ways to  
17 gain the experience requirements required by this subsection.  
18 Individuals who are able to provide evidence to the department, prior  
19 to January 1, 2007, that they have been employed as a pump installer in  
20 the pump and irrigation or domestic pump business by an appropriately  
21 licensed electrical contractor, registered general contractor defined  
22 by chapter 18.27 RCW, or appropriate general specialty contractor  
23 defined by chapter 18.27 RCW for not less than eight thousand hours in  
24 the most recent six calendar years shall be issued the appropriate  
25 certificate by the department upon receiving such documentation and  
26 applicable fees. The department shall establish a single document for  
27 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as  
28 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification  
29 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW  
30 18.106.010(10)(c), showing that the individual has received both  
31 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be  
32 imposed.

33 (iii) Before July 1, 2015, an applicant possessing an electrical  
34 training certificate issued by the department is eligible to apply one  
35 hour of every two hours of unsupervised telecommunications system  
36 installation work experience toward eligibility for examination for a  
37 limited energy system certificate of competency (as specified in WAC  
38 296-46B-920(2)(e)), if:

1       (A) The telecommunications work experience was obtained while  
2 employed by a contractor licensed under this chapter as a general  
3 electrical contractor (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(1)) or limited  
4 energy system specialty contractor (as specified in WAC 296-46B-  
5 920(2)(e)); and

6       (B) Evidence of the telecommunications work experience is submitted  
7 in the form of an affidavit prescribed by the department.

8       (h) Any applicant for a journey level electrician certificate of  
9 competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the  
10 electrical construction trade at public community or technical  
11 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade  
12 schools licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating  
13 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to two years of the  
14 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience  
15 under a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician.  
16 The applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience  
17 required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to  
18 the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school  
19 program. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical  
20 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be  
21 eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification  
22 to take the examination for the journey level electrician certificate  
23 of competency.

24       (i) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of  
25 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a  
26 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public  
27 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally  
28 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce training  
29 and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may  
30 substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for  
31 one year of work experience under a master journey level electrician,  
32 journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in that  
33 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that  
34 electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in  
35 the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United  
36 States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards  
37 qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty  
38 electrician certificate of competency.

1 (j) The department must determine whether hours of training and  
2 experience in the armed services or school program are in the  
3 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for hours  
4 of work experience. The department must use the following criteria for  
5 evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical training programs  
6 and work in the electrical construction trade:

7 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of three  
8 thousand or more hours.

9 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of two  
10 thousand four hundred hours of student/instructor contact time must be  
11 technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope of work  
12 of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time includes  
13 lecture and in-school lab.

14 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that  
15 accepts more than one thousand hours transferred from another school's  
16 program.

17 (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than two  
18 years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time hours  
19 proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more than  
20 fifty percent of the work experience required to attain certification.

21 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not be  
22 credited towards qualification for journey level electrician unless the  
23 training program is used to gain qualification for a four thousand hour  
24 electrical specialty.

25 (k) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

26 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the  
27 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In  
28 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.  
29 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
30 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating  
31 the time and place for taking the examination.

32 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than one  
33 year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test for a  
34 certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after  
35 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of  
36 this section, "full-time basis" means two thousand hours.

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