
HOUSE BILL 2260

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Buys and Manweller

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

1 AN ACT Relating to dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler systems;
2 and amending RCW 18.160.010, 18.160.030, and 18.160.040.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.160.010 and 1990 c 177 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The following words or terms shall have the meanings indicated
7 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

8 (1) "Certificate of competency holder" means an individual who has
9 satisfactorily met the qualifications and has received a certificate of
10 competency from the state director of fire protection under the
11 provisions of this chapter.

12 (2) "Dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler system contractor"
13 means a contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW who offers to
14 undertake the execution of contracts for the design, installation,
15 maintenance, or servicing of a residential dwelling unit fire
16 protection sprinkler system in accordance with performance standards
17 and requirements for one and two-family dwellings in the state building
18 code adopted under chapter 19.27 RCW or any part of such a system.

1 (3) "Dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler system contractor
2 license" means the license issued by the state director of fire
3 protection upon an application being approved, the fee being paid, and
4 the satisfactory completion of the requirements of this chapter. The
5 license shall be issued in the name of the dwelling unit sprinkler
6 system contractor with the name or names of the certificate of
7 competency holder noted thereon.

8 (4) "Fire protection sprinkler system contractor" means a person or
9 organization that offers to undertake the execution of contracts for
10 the installation, inspection, maintenance, or servicing of a fire
11 protection sprinkler system or any part of such a system.

12 (~~(3)~~) (5) "Fire protection sprinkler system" means an assembly of
13 underground and/or overhead piping or conduit beginning at the
14 connection to the primary water supply, whether public or private, that
15 conveys water with or without other agents to dispersal openings or
16 devices to extinguish, control, or contain fire and to provide
17 protection from exposure to fire or other products of combustion.

18 (~~(4)~~) (6) "Fire protection sprinkler system contractor's license"
19 means the license issued by the state director of fire protection to a
20 fire protection sprinkler system contractor upon an application being
21 approved, the fee being paid, and the satisfactory completion of the
22 requirements of this chapter. The license shall be issued in the name
23 of the fire protection sprinkler system contractor with the name or
24 names of the certificate of competency holder noted thereon.

25 (~~(5)~~) (7) "NFPA 13-D" means whatever standard that is used by the
26 national fire protection association for the installation of fire
27 protection sprinkler systems in one or two-family residential dwellings
28 or mobile homes.

29 (~~(6)~~) (8) "NFPA 13-R" means whatever standard that is used by the
30 national fire protection association for the installation of fire
31 protection sprinkler systems in residential dwellings up to four
32 stories in height.

33 (~~(7)~~) (9) "Inspection" means a visual examination of a fire
34 protection sprinkler system or portion of the system to verify that the
35 system appears to be in operating condition and is free from physical
36 damage and complies with the applicable statutes and regulations
37 adopted by the state director of fire protection.

1 (~~(8)~~) (10) "Installation" means the initial placement of fire
2 protection sprinkler system equipment or the extension, modification,
3 or alteration of equipment after the initial placement. Installation
4 shall include the work from a street or main water access throughout
5 the entire building.

6 (~~(9)~~) (11) "Maintenance" means to maintain in the condition of
7 repair that provides performance as originally planned.

8 (~~(10)~~) (12) "Organization" means a corporation, partnership,
9 firm, or other business association, governmental entity, or any other
10 legal or commercial entity.

11 (~~(11)~~) (13) "Person" means a natural person, including an owner,
12 manager, partner, officer, employee, or occupant.

13 (~~(12)~~) (14) "Service" means to repair or test.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.160.030 and 2003 c 74 s 1 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 (1) This chapter shall be administered by the state director of
17 fire protection.

18 (2) The state director of fire protection shall have the authority,
19 and it shall be his or her duty to:

20 (a) Issue such administrative regulations as necessary for the
21 administration of this chapter;

22 (b)(i) Set reasonable fees for licenses, certificates, testing, and
23 other aspects of the administration of this chapter. However, the
24 license fee for fire protection sprinkler system contractors engaged
25 solely in the installation, inspection, maintenance, or servicing of
26 NFPA 13-D or dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler systems shall not
27 exceed one hundred dollars, and the license fee for fire protection
28 sprinkler system contractors engaged solely in the installation,
29 inspection, maintenance, or servicing of NFPA 13-R fire protection
30 sprinkler systems shall not exceed three hundred dollars;

31 (ii) Adopt rules establishing a special category restricted to
32 contractors registered under chapter 18.27 RCW who install underground
33 systems that service fire protection sprinkler systems. The rules
34 shall be adopted within ninety days of March 31, 1992;

35 (iii) Subject to RCW 18.160.120, adopt rules defining infractions
36 under this chapter and fines to be assessed for those infractions;

1 (iv) Adopt rules establishing a special category restricted to
2 dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler system contractors. The rules
3 shall be adopted within one hundred eighty days of March 31, 2014;

4 (v) Adopt rules establishing certificate of competency requirements
5 for persons who design, install, maintain, or service dwelling unit
6 fire protection sprinkler systems in accordance with performance
7 standards and requirements for one and two-family dwellings in the
8 state building code adopted under chapter 19.27 RCW. The rules shall
9 be adopted within one hundred eighty days of March 31, 2014; and

10 (vi) Adopt rules authorizing plumbing contractors as defined in
11 chapter 18.106 RCW who are registered under chapter 18.27 RCW to
12 install dwelling unit fire sprinkler systems in one and two-family
13 dwellings where the design is provided by a licensed fire protection
14 sprinkler system contractor or dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler
15 system contractor. The rules shall be adopted within one hundred
16 eighty days of March 31, 2014;

17 (c) Enforce the provisions of this chapter;

18 (d) Conduct investigations of complaints to determine if any
19 infractions of this chapter or the regulations developed under this
20 chapter have occurred;

21 (e) Assign a certificate number to each certificate of competency
22 holder; and

23 (f) Adopt rules necessary to implement and administer a program
24 which requires the affixation of a seal any time a fire protection
25 sprinkler system is installed, which seal shall include the certificate
26 number of any certificate of competency holder who installs, in whole
27 or in part, the fire protection sprinkler system.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.160.040 and 2000 c 171 s 36 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) To become a certificate of competency holder under this
31 chapter, an applicant must have satisfactorily passed an examination
32 administered by the state director of fire protection. A certificate
33 of competency holder can satisfy this examination requirement by
34 presenting a copy of a current certificate of competency from the
35 national institute for certification in engineering technologies
36 showing that the applicant has achieved the classification of
37 engineering technician level 3 or senior engineering technician level

1 4 in the field of fire protection, automatic sprinkler system layout,
2 or an alternate certificate demonstrating competency of relevant
3 technical scope applicable to dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler
4 systems, as determined by the state director of fire protection. The
5 state director of fire protection may accept equivalent proof of
6 qualification in lieu of examination. This examination requirement is
7 mandatory except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

8 (2) Every applicant for a certificate of competency shall fulfill
9 the requirements established by the state director of fire protection
10 under chapter 34.05 RCW.

11 (3) Every applicant for a certificate of competency shall make
12 application to the state director of fire protection and pay the fees
13 required.

14 (4) Provided the application for the certificate of competency is
15 made prior to ninety days after May 1, 1991, the state director of fire
16 protection, in lieu of the examination requirements of the applicant
17 for a certificate of competency, may accept as satisfactory evidence of
18 competency and qualification, affidavits attesting that the applicant
19 has had a minimum of three years' experience.

20 (5) The state director of fire protection may issue a temporary
21 certificate of competency to an applicant who, in his or her judgment,
22 will satisfactorily perform as a certificate of competency holder under
23 the provisions of this chapter. The temporary certificate of
24 competency shall remain in effect for a period of up to three years.
25 The temporary certificate of competency holder shall, within the three-
26 year period, complete the examination requirements specified in
27 subsection (1) of this section. There shall be no examination
28 exemption for an individual issued a temporary certificate of
29 competency. Prior to the expiration of the three-year period, the
30 temporary certificate of competency holder shall make application for
31 a regular certificate of competency. The procedures and qualifications
32 for issuance of a regular certificate of competency shall be applicable
33 to the temporary certificate of competency holder. When a temporary
34 certificate of competency expires, the holder shall cease all
35 activities associated with the holding of a temporary certificate of
36 competency, subject to the penalties contained in this chapter.

37 (6) To become a licensed fire protection sprinkler system

1 contractor or a dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler system
2 contractor under this chapter, a person or firm must comply with the
3 following:

4 (a) Must be or have in his or her full-time employ a holder of a
5 valid certificate of competency;

6 (b) Comply with the minimum insurance requirements of this chapter;
7 and

8 (c) Make application to the state director of fire protection for
9 a license and pay the fees required.

10 (7) Each license and certificate of competency issued under this
11 chapter must be posted in a conspicuous place in the fire protection
12 sprinkler system contractor's or the dwelling unit fire protection
13 sprinkler system contractor's place of business.

14 (8) All bids, advertisements, proposals, offers, and installation
15 drawings for fire protection sprinkler systems must prominently display
16 the fire protection sprinkler system contractor's or the dwelling unit
17 fire protection sprinkler system contractor's license number.

18 (9) A certificate of competency or license issued under this
19 chapter is not transferable.

20 (10) In no case shall a certificate of competency holder be
21 employed full time by more than one fire protection sprinkler system
22 contractor or dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler system contractor
23 at the same time. If the certificate of competency holder should leave
24 the employment of the fire protection sprinkler system contractor or
25 dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler system contractor, he or she
26 must notify the state director of fire protection within thirty days.
27 If the certificate of competency holder should leave the employment of
28 the fire protection sprinkler system contractor or dwelling unit fire
29 protection sprinkler system contractor, the contractor shall have six
30 months or until the expiration of the current license, whichever occurs
31 last, to submit a new application identifying another certificate of
32 competency holder who is at the time of application an owner of the
33 fire protection sprinkler system business or a full-time employee of
34 the fire protection sprinkler system contractor or dwelling unit fire
35 protection sprinkler system contractor, in order to be issued a new
36 license. If such application is not received and a new license issued
37 within the allotted time, the state director of fire protection shall

1 revoke the license of the fire protection sprinkler system contractor
2 or dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler system contractor.

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