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## Labor Committee

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### HB 1609

**Brief Description:** Granting exemptions to the plumbing and electrical codes.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Manweller, Vick and Condotta.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requires the Department of Labor and Industries to exempt by rule certain minor and incidental electrical and plumbing work from worker certification requirements.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 2/12/15

**Staff:** Joan Elgee (786-7106).

**Background:**

The regulatory scheme for electricians consists of licensure for electrical contractors and certification for electricians. Electrical installations must meet certain standards and variances are permitted from the installation requirements on a case by case basis. A permit and inspection is generally required for electrical work. However, no permit is required for class A basic electrical work in most circumstances. Class A basic electrical work includes the like-in-kind replacement of timers, thermostats, dimmers, household appliances, and other replacements, and travel trailers.

For the plumbing trade, a plumbing contractor must register as a contractor under laws applicable to construction generally, and a plumber must be certified as either a journey level or specialty plumber.

Some work is exempt from the requirement that a certified electrician or plumber perform the work. For example, a person may perform electrical work on his or her property, with some exceptions, without being certified. Similarly, a person does not need to be certified to do plumbing work on his or her property. The plumbing and electrical trade laws are administered and enforced by the Department of Labor and Industries (Department).

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:**

The Director of the Department (Director) must exempt by rule minor or incidental electrical or plumbing work for which worker certification is not required to protect public health or safety.

The Director may also consider:

- consumer and employee health or safety;
- changes in technology;
- practicality and consistency with best practices; and
- enforceability.

"Minor or incidental work" includes work for which no permit is required, work for which an appliance manufacturer routinely includes instructions for homeowner installation; and simple disconnection and reconnection of an appliance or fixture to move the appliance or fixture to accomplish other work.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 9, 2015.

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