
HOUSE BILL 1876

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representative Manweller

Read first time 02/02/15. Referred to Committee on Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to residential security system installations;
2 amending RCW 19.28.006 and 19.28.261; and reenacting and amending RCW
3 19.28.091.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.091 and 2003 c 399 s 301 and 2003 c 242 s 1
6 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) No license under the provision of this chapter shall be
8 required from any utility or any person, firm, partnership,
9 corporation, or other entity employed by a utility because of work in
10 connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of lines,
11 wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by or under the control of a
12 utility and used for transmission or distribution of electricity from
13 the source of supply to the point of contact at the premises and/or
14 property to be supplied and service connections and meters and other
15 apparatus or appliances used in the measurement of the consumption of
16 electricity by the customer.

17 (2) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
18 required from any utility because of work in connection with the
19 installation, repair, or maintenance of the following:

20 (a) Lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment used in the lighting of
21 streets, alleys, ways, or public areas or squares;

1 (b) Lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by a commercial,
2 industrial, or public institution customer that are an integral part
3 of a transmission or distribution system, either overhead or
4 underground, providing service to such customer and located outside
5 the building or structure: PROVIDED, That a utility does not initiate
6 the sale of services to perform such work;

7 (c) Lines and wires, together with ancillary apparatus, and
8 equipment, owned by a customer that is an independent power producer
9 who has entered into an agreement for the sale of electricity to a
10 utility and that are used in transmitting electricity from an
11 electrical generating unit located on premises used by such customer
12 to the point of interconnection with the utility's system.

13 (3) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity
14 licensed under RCW 19.28.041 may enter into a contract with a utility
15 for the performance of work under subsection (2) of this section.

16 (4) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
17 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
18 entity because of the work of installing and repairing ignition or
19 lighting systems for motor vehicles.

20 (5) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
21 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
22 entity because of work in connection with the installation, repair,
23 or maintenance of wires and equipment, and installations thereof,
24 exempted in RCW 19.28.010.

25 (6) The department may by rule exempt from licensing requirements
26 under this chapter work performed on premanufactured electric power
27 generation equipment assemblies and control gear involving the
28 testing, repair, modification, maintenance, or installation of
29 components internal to the power generation equipment, the control
30 gear, or the transfer switch.

31 (7) This chapter does not require an electrical contractor
32 license if: (a) An appropriately certified electrician or a properly
33 supervised certified electrical trainee is performing the
34 installation, repair, or maintenance of wires and equipment for a
35 nonprofit corporation that holds a current tax exempt status as
36 provided under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) or a nonprofit religious
37 organization; (b) the certified electrician or certified electrical
38 trainee is not compensated for the electrical work; and (c) the value
39 of the electrical work does not exceed thirty thousand dollars.

1 (8) An entity that currently holds a valid specialty or general
2 plumbing contractor's registration under chapter 18.27 RCW may employ
3 a certified plumber, a certified residential plumber, or a plumber
4 trainee meeting the requirements of chapter 18.106 RCW to perform
5 electrical work that is incidentally, directly, and immediately
6 appropriate to the like-in-kind replacement of a household appliance
7 or other small household utilization equipment that requires limited
8 electric power and limited waste and/or water connections. A plumber
9 trainee must be supervised by a certified plumber or a certified
10 residential plumber while performing electrical work. The electrical
11 work is subject to the permitting and inspection requirements of this
12 chapter.

13 (9) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
14 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
15 entity for work limited to installing in a one or two family dwelling
16 no more than one power supply cable six feet or less in length from a
17 listed class two transformer rated no greater than twenty-four volts
18 in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of one
19 main control panel for a low voltage security, intrusion, or similar
20 alarm system, excluding systems that monitor required fire or smoke
21 detection devices.

22 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.006 and 2013 c 23 s 27 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 The definitions in this section apply throughout this subchapter.

25 (1) "Administrator" means a person designated by an electrical
26 contractor to supervise electrical work and electricians in
27 accordance with the rules adopted under this chapter.

28 (2) "Basic electrical work" means the work classified in (a) and
29 (b) of this subsection as class A and class B basic electrical work:

30 (a) "Class A basic electrical work" means:

31 (i) The like-in-kind replacement of a: Contactor, relay, timer,
32 starter, circuit board, or similar control component; household
33 appliance; circuit breaker; fuse; residential luminaire; lamp; snap
34 switch; dimmer; receptacle outlet; thermostat; heating element;
35 luminaire ballast with an exact same ballast; ten horsepower or
36 smaller motor; or wiring, appliances, devices, or equipment as
37 specified by rule.

38 (ii) Work limited to installing in a one or two family dwelling
39 no more than one power supply cable six feet or less in length from a

1 listed class two transformer rated no greater than twenty-four volts
2 in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of one
3 main control panel for a low voltage security, intrusion, or similar
4 alarm system, excluding systems that monitor required fire or smoke
5 detection devices.

6 (b) "Class B basic electrical work" means work other than class A
7 basic electrical work that requires minimal electrical circuit
8 modifications and has limited exposure hazards. Class B basic
9 electrical work includes the following:

10 (i) Extension of not more than one branch electrical circuit
11 limited to one hundred twenty volts and twenty amps each where:

12 (A) No cover inspection is necessary; and

13 (B) The extension does not supply more than two outlets;

14 (ii) Like-in-kind replacement of a single luminaire not exceeding
15 two hundred seventy-seven volts and twenty amps;

16 (iii) Like-in-kind replacement of a motor larger than ten
17 horsepower;

18 (iv) The following low voltage systems:

19 (A) Repair and replacement of devices not exceeding one hundred
20 volt-amperes in Class 2, Class 3, or power limited low voltage
21 systems in one and two-family dwellings;

22 (B) Repair and replacement of the following devices not exceeding
23 one hundred volt-amperes in Class 2, Class 3, or power limited low
24 voltage systems in other buildings, provided the equipment is not for
25 fire alarm or nurse call systems and is not located in an area
26 classified as hazardous by the national electrical code; or

27 (v) Wiring, appliances, devices, or equipment as specified by
28 rule.

29 (3) "Board" means the electrical board under RCW 19.28.311.

30 (4) "Chapter" or "subchapter" means the subchapter, if no chapter
31 number is referenced.

32 (5) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

33 (6) "Director" means the director of the department or the
34 director's designee.

35 (7) "Electrical construction trade" includes, but is not limited
36 to, installing or maintaining electrical wires and equipment that are
37 used for light, heat, or power and installing and maintaining remote
38 control, signaling, power limited, or communication circuits or
39 systems.

1 (8) "Electrical contractor" means a person, firm, partnership,
2 corporation, or other entity that offers to undertake, undertakes,
3 submits a bid for, or does the work of installing or maintaining
4 wires or equipment that convey electrical current.

5 (9) "Equipment" means any equipment or apparatus that directly
6 uses, conducts, insulates, or is operated by electricity but does not
7 mean: Plug-in appliances; or plug-in equipment as determined by the
8 department by rule.

9 (10) "Industrial control panel" means a factory-wired or user-
10 wired assembly of industrial control equipment such as motor
11 controllers, switches, relays, power supplies, computers, cathode ray
12 tubes, transducers, and auxiliary devices. The panel may include
13 disconnect means and motor branch circuit protective devices.

14 (11) "Journey level electrician" means a person who has been
15 issued a journey level electrician certificate of competency by the
16 department.

17 (12) "Like-in-kind" means having similar characteristics such as
18 voltage requirements, current draw, and function, and being in the
19 same location.

20 (13) "Master electrician" means either a master journey level
21 electrician or master specialty electrician.

22 (14) "Master journey level electrician" means a person who has
23 been issued a master journey level electrician certificate of
24 competency by the department and who may be designated by an
25 electrical contractor to supervise electrical work and electricians
26 in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter.

27 (15) "Master specialty electrician" means a person who has been
28 issued a specialty electrician certificate of competency by the
29 department and who may be designated by an electrical contractor to
30 supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance with rules
31 adopted under this chapter.

32 (16) "Specialty electrician" means a person who has been issued a
33 specialty electrician certificate of competency by the department.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.261 and 2013 c 23 s 37 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 (1) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed
37 to require that a person obtain a license or a certified electrician
38 in order to do electrical work at his or her residence or farm or
39 place of business or on other property owned by him or her unless the

1 electrical work is on the construction of a new building intended for
2 rent, sale, or lease. However, if the construction is of a new
3 residential building with up to four units intended for rent, sale,
4 or lease, the owner may receive an exemption from the requirement to
5 obtain a license or use a certified electrician if he or she provides
6 a signed affidavit to the department stating that he or she will be
7 performing the work and will occupy one of the units as his or her
8 principal residence. The owner shall apply to the department for this
9 exemption and may only receive an exemption once every twenty-four
10 months. It is intended that the owner receiving this exemption shall
11 occupy the unit as his or her principal residence for twenty-four
12 months after completion of the units.

13 (2) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be intended
14 to derogate from or dispense with the requirements of any valid
15 electrical code enacted by a city or town pursuant to RCW
16 19.28.010(3), except that no code shall require the holder of a
17 certificate of competency to demonstrate any additional proof of
18 competency or obtain any other license or pay any fee in order to
19 engage in the electrical construction trade.

20 (3) RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not apply to common
21 carriers subject to Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act, nor to
22 their officers and employees.

23 (4) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be deemed to
24 apply to the installation or maintenance of telephone, telegraph,
25 radio, or television wires and equipment; nor to any electrical
26 utility or its employees in the installation, repair, and maintenance
27 of electrical wiring, circuits, and equipment by or for the utility,
28 or comprising a part of its plants, lines, or systems.

29 (5) The licensing provisions of RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271
30 shall not apply to:

31 (a) Persons making electrical installations on their own property
32 or to regularly employed employees working on the premises of their
33 employer, unless the electrical work is on the construction of a new
34 building intended for rent, sale, or lease;

35 (b) Employees of an employer while the employer is performing
36 utility type work of the nature described in RCW 19.28.091 so long as
37 such employees have registered in the state of Washington with or
38 graduated from a state-approved outside lineworker apprenticeship
39 course that is recognized by the department and that qualifies a
40 person to perform such work;

1 (c) Any work exempted under RCW 19.28.091(6); and
2 (d) Certified plumbers, certified residential plumbers, or
3 plumber trainees meeting the requirements of chapter 18.106 RCW and
4 performing exempt work under RCW 19.28.091(8).
5 (6) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed
6 to restrict the right of any householder to assist or receive
7 assistance from a friend, neighbor, relative, or other person when
8 none of the individuals doing the electrical installation hold
9 themselves out as engaged in the trade or business of electrical
10 installations.
11 (7) Nothing precludes any person who is exempt from the licensing
12 requirements of this chapter under this section from obtaining a
13 journey level or specialty certificate of competency if they
14 otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter.
15 (8) RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not apply to persons
16 performing work limited to installing in a one or two family dwelling
17 no more than one power supply cable six feet or less in length from a
18 listed class two transformer rated no greater than twenty-four volts
19 in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of one
20 main control panel for a low voltage security, intrusion, or similar
21 alarm system, excluding systems that monitor required fire or smoke
22 detection devices.

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