
HOUSE BILL 2886

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By Representative Manweller

Read first time 01/25/16. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to electrical scope of practice; amending RCW
2 19.28.095 and 19.28.191; and reenacting and amending RCW 19.28.400.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.095 and 2003 c 399 s 602 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The scope of work for the equipment repair specialty involves
7 servicing, maintaining, repairing, or replacing utilization equipment
8 or wiring, appliances, devices, or equipment as specified by rule of
9 the department.

10 (2) "Utilization equipment" means equipment that is: (a) Self-
11 contained on a single skid or frame; (b) factory built to
12 standardized sizes or types; (c) listed or field evaluated by a
13 laboratory or approved by the department under WAC 296-46B-030; and
14 (d) connected as a single unit to a single source of electrical power
15 limited to a maximum of six hundred volts. The equipment may also be
16 connected to a separate single source of electrical control power
17 limited to a maximum of two hundred fifty volts. Utilization
18 equipment does not include devices used for occupant space heating by
19 industrial, commercial, hospital, educational, public, and private
20 commercial buildings, and other end users.

1 (3) "Servicing, maintaining, repairing, or replacing utilization
2 equipment" includes:

3 (a) The like-in-kind replacement of the equipment if the same
4 unmodified electrical circuit is used to supply the equipment being
5 replaced;

6 (b) The like-in-kind replacement or repair of remote control
7 components that are integral to the operation of the equipment;

8 (c) The like-in-kind replacement or repair of electrical
9 components within the equipment; and

10 (d) The disconnection, replacement, and reconnection of low-
11 voltage control and line voltage supply whips not over six feet in
12 length provided there are no modifications to the characteristics of
13 the branch circuit.

14 (4) "Servicing, maintaining, repairing, or replacing utilization
15 equipment" does not include:

16 (a) The installation, repair, or modification of wiring that
17 interconnects equipment and/or remote components, branch circuit
18 conductors, services, feeders, panelboards, disconnect switches,
19 motor control centers, remote magnetic starters/contactors, or
20 raceway/conductor systems interconnecting multiple equipment or other
21 electrical components;

22 (b) Any work providing electrical feeds into the power
23 distribution unit or installation of conduits and raceways; or

24 (c) Any electrical work governed under article(s) 500, 501, 502,
25 503, 504, 505, 510, 511, 513, 514, 515, or 516 NEC (i.e., classified
26 locations), except for electrical work in sewage pumping stations.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2014 c 156 s 2 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review
30 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to
31 take an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey
32 level electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty
33 electrician certificate of competency.

34 (a) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid
35 journey level electrician certificate of competency in effect for the
36 previous four years and a valid general administrator's certificate
37 may apply for a master journey level electrician certificate of
38 competency without examination.

1 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid
2 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty
3 applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty
4 administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply
5 for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without
6 examination.

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

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

12 (ii) A person who provides evidence in a form prescribed by the
13 department affirming that: (A) He or she was employed as of April 1,
14 2003, by a factory-authorized equipment dealer or service company;
15 and (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of
16 four thousand hours.

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

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

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

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

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

14 (B) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by the
15 department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as
16 determined by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty
17 as determined by the department in rule, the pump and irrigation
18 specialty other than as defined by (g)(i)(A) of this subsection or
19 domestic pump specialty as determined by the department in rule, or a
20 specialty other than the designated specialties in (g)(i)(A) of this
21 subsection for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set
22 by rule by the department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance
23 specialty is limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for
24 lighting branch circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes
25 for other circuits(~~(, but excludes)~~) excluding the replacement or
26 repair of circuit breakers. The department may alter the scope of
27 work for the restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule.

28 The initial period must be spent under one hundred percent
29 supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level
30 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
31 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
32 electrician's specialty. After this initial period, a person may take
33 the specialty examination. If the person passes the examination, the
34 person may work unsupervised for the balance of the minimum hours
35 required for certification. A person may not be certified as a
36 specialty electrician in the appliance repair specialty or in a
37 specialty other than the designated specialties in (g)(i)(A) of this
38 subsection, however, until the person has worked a minimum of two
39 thousand hours in that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the
40 department; or

1 (C) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program
2 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the
3 electrical construction trade.

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

34 (iii) Before July 1, 2015, an applicant possessing an electrical
35 training certificate issued by the department is eligible to apply
36 one hour of every two hours of unsupervised telecommunications system
37 installation work experience toward eligibility for examination for a
38 limited energy system certificate of competency (as specified in WAC
39 296-46B-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
5 296-46B-920(2)(e)); and

6 (B) Evidence of the telecommunications work experience is
7 submitted 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
16 electrician. The applicant shall obtain the additional two years of
17 work experience required in industrial or commercial electrical
18 installation prior to the beginning, or after the completion, of the
19 technical school program. Any applicant who has received training in
20 the electrical construction trade in the armed service of the United
21 States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards
22 qualification to take the examination for the journey level
23 electrician certificate 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
29 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,
30 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school
31 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level
32 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
33 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
34 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has
35 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed
36 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service
37 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an
38 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

39 (j) The department must determine whether hours of training and
40 experience in the armed services or school program are in the

1 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for
2 hours of work experience. The department must use the following
3 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical
4 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.400 and 2014 c 156 s 1 are each reenacted and
37 amended to read as follows:

38 The definitions in this section apply throughout this subchapter
39 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- 1 (1) "Board" means the electrical board under RCW 19.28.311.
- 2 (2) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.
- 3 (3) "Director" means the director of the department or the
4 director's designee.
- 5 (4) "Telecommunications administrator" means a person designated
6 by a telecommunications contractor to supervise the installation of
7 telecommunications systems in accordance with rules adopted under
8 this chapter.
- 9 (5) "Telecommunications backbone cabling systems" means a system
10 that provides interconnections between telecommunications closets,
11 equipment rooms, and entrance facilities in the telecommunications
12 cabling system structure. Backbone cabling consists of the backbone
13 cables, intermediate and main cross-connects, mechanical
14 terminations, and patch cords or jumpers used for backbone to
15 backbone cross-connection. Backbone cabling also includes cabling
16 between buildings.
- 17 (6) "Telecommunications closet" means a room for housing
18 telecommunications equipment, cable terminations, and cross-connect
19 wiring that serve that particular floor. The closet is the recognized
20 transition point between the backbone and horizontal cabling systems.
- 21 (7) "Telecommunications contractor" means a person, firm,
22 partnership, corporation, or other entity that advertises, offers to
23 undertake, undertakes, submits a bid for, or does the work of
24 installing or maintaining telecommunications systems.
- 25 (8) "Telecommunications horizontal cabling systems" means the
26 portions of the telecommunications cabling system that extend from
27 the work area telecommunications outlet or connector to the
28 telecommunications closet. The horizontal cabling includes the
29 horizontal cables, the telecommunications outlet or connector in the
30 work area, the mechanical termination, and horizontal cross-
31 connections located in the telecommunications closet.
- 32 (9) "Telecommunications network demarcation point" means the
33 point or interconnection between the service provider's
34 communications cabling, terminal equipment, and protective apparatus
35 and the customer's premises telecommunications cabling system. The
36 location of this point for regulated carriers is determined by
37 federal and state regulations. The carrier should be contacted to
38 determine the location policies in effect in the area.
- 39 (10) "Telecommunications scope of work" means the work of a
40 telecommunications contractor as defined in this section and as

1 specified by rule of the department. This includes, but is not
2 limited to, the installation, maintenance, and testing of
3 telecommunications systems, equipment, and associated hardware,
4 pathway systems, and cable management systems, which excludes cable
5 tray and conduit raceway systems. The scope also includes
6 installation of open wiring systems of telecommunications cables,
7 surface nonmetallic raceways designated and used exclusively for
8 telecommunications, optical fiber innerduct raceway, underground
9 raceways designated and used exclusively for telecommunications and
10 installed for additions or extensions to existing telecommunications
11 systems not to exceed fifty feet inside the building, and incidental
12 short sections of circular or surface metal raceway, not to exceed
13 ten feet, for access or protection of telecommunications cabling and
14 installation of cable trays and ladder racks in telecommunications
15 service entrance rooms, spaces, or closets.

16 (11) "Telecommunications service entrance room or space" means a
17 room or space used as the building serving facility in which the
18 joining of inter-building and intra-building backbone facilities
19 takes place. The service entrance room may also house electronic
20 equipment serving any telecommunications function.

21 (12) A "telecommunications structured cabling system" is the
22 complete collective configuration of cabling and associated hardware
23 at a given site and installed to perform specific telecommunications
24 functions.

25 (13) "Telecommunications systems" means structured cabling
26 systems that begin at the demarcation point between the local service
27 provider and the customer's premises structured cabling system or the
28 wiring, appliances, devices, or equipment as specified by rule of the
29 department.

30 (a) Telecommunications systems (~~encompass~~) include, but are not
31 limited to, all forms of information generation, processing, and
32 transporting of signals conveyed electronically or optically within
33 or between buildings, including voice, data, video, and audio.

34 (b) Telecommunications systems include, but are not limited to,
35 structured cabling systems, compatible connecting hardware,
36 telecommunications equipment, premises switching equipment providing
37 operational power to the telecommunications device, infrared, fiber
38 optic, radio-frequency, power distribution associated with
39 telecommunications systems, and other limited-energy interconnections
40 associated with telecommunications systems or appliances.

1 (c) Telecommunications systems do not include horizontal cabling
2 used for fire protection signaling systems, intrusion alarms, access
3 control systems, patient monitoring systems, energy management
4 control systems, industrial and automation control systems, HVAC/
5 refrigeration control systems, lighting or lighting control systems,
6 and stand-alone amplified sound or public address systems.

7 (d) Telecommunications systems may interface with other building
8 signal systems including security, alarms, and energy management at
9 cross-connection junctions within telecommunications closets or at
10 extended points of demarcation. Horizontal cabling for a
11 telecommunications outlet, necessary to interface with any of these
12 systems outside of a telecommunications closet, is the work of the
13 telecommunications contractor. Telecommunications systems do not
14 include the installation or termination of premises line voltage
15 service, feeder, or branch circuit conductors or equipment.

16 (14) "Telecommunications worker" means a person primarily and
17 regularly engaged in the installation and/or maintenance of
18 telecommunications systems, equipment, and infrastructure as defined
19 in this chapter.

20 (15) "Telecommunications workstation" means a building space
21 where the occupant normally interacts with telecommunications
22 equipment. The telecommunications outlet in the work area is the
23 point at which end-user equipment plugs into the building
24 telecommunications utility formed by the pathway, space, and building
25 wiring system.

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