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SENATE BILL 5860

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Rolfes and Miloscia

1 AN ACT Relating to creating alternative qualifications for  
2 electrical trainee certification; and amending RCW 19.28.191.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2016 c 198 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

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

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

16 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid  
17 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty  
18 applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty  
19 administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply  
20 for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without  
21 examination.

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

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

6 (ii) A person who provides evidence in a form prescribed by the  
7 department affirming that: (A) He or she was employed as of April 1,  
8 2003, by a factory-authorized equipment dealer or service company;  
9 and (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of  
10 four thousand hours.

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 (A) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC  
38 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC  
39 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),  
40 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),

1 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),  
2 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the  
3 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level  
4 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician  
5 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
6 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of four  
7 thousand hours;

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

34 (C) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program  
35 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the  
36 electrical construction trade;

37 (D) The two thousand minimum hours of work experience required  
38 for certification as an HVAC/refrigeration restricted specialty  
39 electrician may be credited as two thousand hours towards the four  
40 thousand minimum hours of work experience required for certification

1 as an HVAC/refrigeration specialty electrician. But, hours of work  
2 experience credited from the HVAC/refrigeration restricted specialty  
3 electrician certification cannot be credited towards qualification  
4 for taking the general electrician examination or minimum work  
5 experience requirements; or

6 (E) The two thousand hours of work experience required for  
7 certification as a restricted, nonresidential maintenance specialty  
8 electrician may be credited as two thousand hours towards the four  
9 thousand minimum hours of work experience required for certification  
10 as a nonresidential maintenance specialty electrician. But, hours of  
11 work experience credited from the restricted, nonresidential  
12 maintenance specialty electrician certification cannot be credited  
13 towards qualification for taking the general electrician examination  
14 or minimum work experience requirements.

15 (ii) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and  
16 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be  
17 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same  
18 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW  
19 18.106.040(1)(c). After meeting the training requirements provided in  
20 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon  
21 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as  
22 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a  
23 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying  
24 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate  
25 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty  
26 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) with the  
27 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in  
28 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional  
29 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this  
30 subsection. Individuals who are able to provide evidence to the  
31 department, prior to January 1, 2007, that they have been employed as  
32 a pump installer in the pump and irrigation or domestic pump business  
33 by an appropriately licensed electrical contractor, registered  
34 general contractor defined by chapter 18.27 RCW, or appropriate  
35 general specialty contractor defined by chapter 18.27 RCW for not  
36 less than eight thousand hours in the most recent six calendar years  
37 shall be issued the appropriate certificate by the department upon  
38 receiving such documentation and applicable fees. The department  
39 shall establish a single document for those who have received both an  
40 electrical specialty certification as defined by this subsection and

1 have also met the certification requirements for the specialty  
2 plumber as defined by RCW 18.106.010(10)(c), showing that the  
3 individual has received both certifications. No other experience or  
4 training requirements may be imposed.

5 (iii) Before July 1, 2015, an applicant possessing an electrical  
6 training certificate issued by the department is eligible to apply  
7 one hour of every two hours of unsupervised telecommunications system  
8 installation work experience toward eligibility for examination for a  
9 limited energy system certificate of competency (as specified in WAC  
10 296-46B-920(2)(e)), if:

11 (A) The telecommunications work experience was obtained while  
12 employed by a contractor licensed under this chapter as a general  
13 electrical contractor (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(1)) or limited  
14 energy system specialty contractor (as specified in WAC  
15 296-46B-920(2)(e)); and

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

18 (iv) In meeting the qualifications for experience requirements  
19 for the specialty electricians: Pump and irrigation (as specified in  
20 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), signs (as specified in WAC  
21 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy system (as specified in WAC  
22 296-46B-920(2)(e)), HVAC/refrigeration systems (as specified in WAC  
23 296-46B-920(2)(f)), and nonresidential maintenance (as specified in  
24 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)), individuals must be allowed the additional  
25 equivalent way to obtain the experience required, outlined in this  
26 subsection (1)(g)(iv). Applicants who are able to submit evidence to  
27 the department that they have been employed in the performance of  
28 their normal job duties in these specialties, including tasks not  
29 directly related to electrical, while employed by an appropriately  
30 licensed specialty electrical contractor or general electrical  
31 contractor who maintains an appropriately certified master journey  
32 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty  
33 electrician, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's  
34 specialty to provide appropriate ratio of supervision for trainees,  
35 who maintain an active trainee certification in their specialty for  
36 eight thousand hours, must be considered qualified to take the  
37 examination for a specialty requiring no more than four thousand  
38 hours of supervised electrical training experience. Such experience  
39 must be approved for tasks related only to that specialty and does  
40 not count as experience towards a general journey level examination

1 or specialties that are not directly related. For record purposes: A  
2 valid contractor's license; active administrator, journey level, and  
3 trainee certificates; payroll records; and the affidavit of  
4 experience signed and notarized by the licensed contractor and  
5 trainee are sufficient. The department shall not make other  
6 requirements.

7 (v) The following persons: Pump and irrigation (as specified in  
8 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), signs (as specified in WAC  
9 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy system (as specified in WAC  
10 296-46B-920(2)(e)), HVAC/refrigeration systems (as specified in WAC  
11 296-46B-920(2)(f)), nonresidential maintenance and its subspecialties  
12 (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2) (g) through (l)) must be granted  
13 permission to take the associated exam for certification if they are  
14 able to provide evidence, in a form prescribed by the department,  
15 affirming that: Prior to January 1, 2002, they were engaged in a bona  
16 fide business or trade in the state of Washington as a worker meeting  
17 the scope of work of these electrician specialties.

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

34 (i) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of  
35 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a  
36 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public  
37 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally  
38 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce  
39 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,  
40 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school

1 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level  
2 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician  
3 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
4 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has  
5 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed  
6 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service  
7 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an  
8 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

9 (j) The department must determine whether hours of training and  
10 experience in the armed services or school program are in the  
11 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for  
12 hours of work experience. The department must use the following  
13 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical  
14 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the  
36 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.  
37 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the  
38 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
39 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating  
40 the time and place for taking the examination.

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

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