
SENATE BILL 5986

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senator Fortunato

Prefiled 12/04/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to plumber training and supervision; and amending
2 RCW 18.106.070.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.106.070 and 2013 c 23 s 19 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall issue a certificate of competency to all
7 applicants who have passed the examination and have paid the fee for
8 the certificate. The certificate may include a photograph of the
9 holder. The certificate shall bear the date of issuance, and shall
10 expire on the birthdate of the holder immediately following the date
11 of issuance. The certificate shall be renewable every other year,
12 upon application, on or before the birthdate of the holder, except
13 for specialty plumbers defined by RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) who also have
14 an electrical certification issued jointly as provided by RCW
15 18.106.050(3) in which case their certificate shall be renewable
16 every three years on or before the birthdate of the holder. The
17 department shall renew a certificate of competency if the applicant:
18 (a) Pays the renewal fee assessed by the department; and (b) during
19 the past two years has completed sixteen hours of continuing
20 education approved by the department with the advice of the advisory
21 board, including four hours related to electrical safety. For holders

1 of the specialty plumber certificate under RCW 18.106.010(10)(c), the
2 continuing education may comprise both electrical and plumbing
3 education with a minimum of twelve of the required twenty-four hours
4 of continuing education in plumbing. If a person fails to renew the
5 certificate by the renewal date, he or she must pay a doubled fee. If
6 the person does not renew the certificate within ninety days of the
7 renewal date, he or she must retake the examination and pay the
8 examination fee.

9 The journey level plumber and specialty plumber certificates of
10 competency, the medical gas piping installer endorsement, and the
11 temporary permit provided for in this chapter grant the holder the
12 right to engage in the work of plumbing as a journey level plumber,
13 specialty plumber, or medical gas piping installer, in accordance
14 with their provisions throughout the state and within any of its
15 political subdivisions on any job or any employment without
16 additional proof of competency or any other license or permit or fee
17 to engage in the work. This section does not preclude employees from
18 adhering to a union security clause in any employment where such a
19 requirement exists.

20 (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program
21 approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the plumbing construction trade
22 or who is learning the plumbing construction trade may work in the
23 plumbing construction trade if supervised by a certified journey
24 level plumber or a certified specialty plumber in that plumber's
25 specialty. All apprentices and individuals learning the plumbing
26 construction trade shall obtain a plumbing training certificate from
27 the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to learn
28 the plumbing construction trade while under the direct supervision of
29 a journey level plumber or a specialty plumber working in his or her
30 specialty. The certificate may include a photograph of the holder.
31 The holder of the plumbing training certificate shall renew the
32 certificate annually. At the time of renewal, the holder shall
33 provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's
34 employers in the plumbing construction industry for the previous year
35 and the number of hours worked for each employer. An annual fee shall
36 be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The
37 department shall set the fee by rule. The fee shall cover but not
38 exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee
39 certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.

1 (3) Any person who has been issued a plumbing training
2 certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under
3 supervision. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same
4 job site and under the control of either a journey level plumber or
5 an appropriate specialty plumber who has an applicable certificate of
6 competency issued under this chapter. Either a journey level plumber
7 or an appropriate specialty plumber shall be on the same job site as
8 the noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of
9 each working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter. The ratio
10 of noncertified individuals to certified journey level or specialty
11 plumbers working on a job site shall ~~((be: (a) Not more than two
12 noncertified plumbers working on any one job site for every certified
13 specialty plumber or journey level plumber working as a specialty
14 plumber; and (b) not more than one noncertified plumber working on
15 any one job site for every certified journey level plumber working as
16 a journey level plumber))~~ vary based upon the following schedule and
17 the hours of training cited herein must be documented hours pursuant
18 to subsection (2) of this section:

19 (a) A trainee with two thousand hours or less of training shall
20 carry a point value of thirty-two.

21 (b) A trainee with two thousand and one to four thousand hours of
22 training shall carry a point value of twenty-eight.

23 (c) A trainee with four thousand and one to six thousand hours of
24 training shall carry a point value of twenty-four.

25 (d) A trainee with six thousand and one or more hours of
26 training, or a specialty plumber under the supervision of a journey
27 level plumber on a commercial job site, shall carry a point value of
28 twenty.

29 (e) A supervising journey level plumber or specialty plumber may
30 supervise multiple trainees provided the cumulative point value of
31 the trainees being supervised at any one time is no more than one
32 hundred.

33 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has
34 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved
35 apprenticeship program or in a technical school program in the
36 plumbing construction trade in a school approved by the workforce
37 training and education coordinating board, may work without direct
38 on-site supervision during the last six months of meeting the
39 practical experience requirements of this chapter.

1 (4) An individual who has a current training certificate and who
2 has successfully completed or is currently enrolled in a medical gas
3 piping installer training course approved by the department may work
4 on medical gas piping systems if the individual is under the direct
5 supervision of a certified medical gas piping installer who holds a
6 medical gas piping installer endorsement one hundred percent of a
7 working day on a one-to-one ratio.

8 (5) The training to become a certified plumber must include not
9 less than sixteen hours of classroom training established by the
10 director with the advice of the advisory board. The classroom
11 training must include, but not be limited to, electrical wiring
12 safety, grounding, bonding, and other related items plumbers need to
13 know to work under RCW 19.28.091.

14 (6) All persons who are certified plumbers before January 1,
15 2003, are deemed to have received the classroom training required in
16 subsection (5) of this section.

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