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SENATE BILL 6126

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

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By Senators Saldaña, Hasegawa, Chase, Conway, Zeiger, Keiser, and Kuderer

Read first time 01/09/18. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring completion of an apprenticeship  
2 program to receive a journey level electrician certificate of  
3 competency; amending RCW 19.28.191, 19.28.161, and 19.28.205; and  
4 adding a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW.

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

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

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

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

18 ~~(b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid~~  
19 ~~specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty~~  
20 ~~applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty~~  
21 ~~administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply~~

1 ~~for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without~~  
2 ~~examination.~~

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

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

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

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

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

21 ~~((f)) (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey~~  
22 ~~level certificate of competency, the applicant must have((~~

23 ~~(i)) successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved~~  
24 ~~under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade in~~  
25 ~~which the applicant worked in the electrical construction trade for a~~  
26 ~~minimum of eight thousand hours((, of which)). Four thousand of the~~  
27 ~~hours shall be in industrial or commercial electrical installation~~  
28 ~~under the supervision of a master journey level electrician or~~  
29 ~~journey level electrician and not more than a total of four thousand~~  
30 ~~hours in all specialties under the supervision of a master journey~~  
31 ~~level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty~~  
32 ~~electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty~~  
33 ~~electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Specialty~~  
34 ~~electricians with less than a four thousand hour work experience~~  
35 ~~requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that specialty~~  
36 ~~towards qualifying to become a journey level electrician((; or~~

37 ~~(ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved~~  
38 ~~under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade)). The~~  
39 ~~holder of a specialty electrician certificate of competency with a~~  
40 ~~four thousand hour work experience requirement shall be allowed to~~

1 credit the work experience required to obtain that certificate  
2 towards apprenticeship requirements for qualifying to take the  
3 examination for a journey level electrician certificate of  
4 competency.

5 ~~((g)(i))~~ (d) To be eligible to take the examination for ~~((a))~~  
6 the following specialty electrician certificates of competency, the  
7 applicant must have:

8 ~~((A))~~ (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC  
9 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC  
10 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),  
11 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),  
12 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),  
13 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the  
14 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level  
15 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician  
16 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
17 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of four  
18 thousand hours;

19 ~~((B))~~ (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as  
20 determined by the department in rule, restricted nonresidential  
21 maintenance as determined by the department in rule, the equipment  
22 repair specialty as determined by the department in rule, the pump  
23 and irrigation specialty other than as defined by ~~((g))~~ (d)(i)  
24 ~~((A))~~ of this subsection or domestic pump specialty as determined  
25 by the department in rule, or a specialty other than the designated  
26 specialties in ~~((g))~~ (d)(i)~~((A))~~ of this subsection for a minimum  
27 of the initial ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the  
28 department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty is  
29 limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for lighting branch  
30 circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes for other  
31 circuits excluding the replacement or repair of circuit breakers. The  
32 department may alter the scope of work for the restricted  
33 nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule. The initial period must  
34 be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a master journey  
35 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty  
36 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty  
37 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After this  
38 initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If the  
39 person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised for  
40 the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A person

1 may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance  
2 repair specialty or in a specialty other than the designated  
3 specialties in ~~((g))~~ (d)(i)~~((A))~~ of this subsection, however,  
4 until the person has worked a minimum of two thousand hours in that  
5 specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department; ~~((e~~  
6 ~~(c))~~ (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship  
7 program under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the  
8 electrical construction trade~~((r))~~; or  
9 ~~((ii))~~ (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump  
10 and irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be  
11 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same  
12 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW  
13 18.106.040(1)(c). After meeting the training requirements provided in  
14 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon  
15 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as  
16 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a  
17 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying  
18 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate  
19 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty  
20 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) with the  
21 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in  
22 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional  
23 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this  
24 subsection. Individuals who are able to provide evidence to the  
25 department, prior to January 1, 2007, that they have been employed as  
26 a pump installer in the pump and irrigation or domestic pump business  
27 by an appropriately licensed electrical contractor, registered  
28 general contractor defined by chapter 18.27 RCW, or appropriate  
29 general specialty contractor defined by chapter 18.27 RCW for not  
30 less than eight thousand hours in the most recent six calendar years  
31 shall be issued the appropriate certificate by the department upon  
32 receiving such documentation and applicable fees. The department  
33 shall establish a single document for those who have received both an  
34 electrical specialty certification as defined by this subsection and  
35 have also met the certification requirements for the specialty  
36 plumber as defined by RCW 18.106.010(10)(c), showing that the  
37 individual has received both certifications. No other experience or  
38 training requirements may be imposed.  
39 ~~((iii) Before July 1, 2015, an applicant possessing an~~  
40 ~~electrical training certificate issued by the department is eligible~~

1 to apply one hour of every two hours of unsupervised  
2 telecommunications system installation work experience toward  
3 eligibility for examination for a limited energy system certificate  
4 of competency (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), if:

5 (A) The telecommunications work experience was obtained while  
6 employed by a contractor licensed under this chapter as a general  
7 electrical contractor (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(1)) or limited  
8 energy system specialty contractor (as specified in WAC  
9 296-46B-920(2)(e)); and

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

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

29 ((+)) (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate  
30 of competency who(, after January 1, 2000,) has successfully  
31 completed a two-year program in the electrical construction trade at  
32 a public community or technical college, or a not-for-profit  
33 nationally accredited technical or trade school licensed by the  
34 workforce training and education coordinating board under chapter  
35 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade  
36 school program for one year of work experience under a master journey  
37 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty  
38 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty  
39 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant  
40 who has received training in the electrical construction trade in the

1 armed services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed  
2 service work experience towards qualification to take the examination  
3 for an appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

4 ~~((+j))~~ (g) The department must determine whether hours of  
5 training and experience in the armed services or school program are  
6 in the electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute  
7 for hours of work experience. The department must use the following  
8 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical  
9 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

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

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

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

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

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

29 ~~((+k))~~ (h) Up to four thousand hours are transferable to an  
30 appropriate apprenticeship program at the discretion of the committee  
31 in accordance with the standards of apprenticeship.

32 (i) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

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

39 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than  
40 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test

1 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after  
2 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of  
3 this section, "full-time basis" means two thousand hours.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.161 and 2013 c 23 s 29 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade  
7 without having a valid master journey level electrician certificate  
8 of competency, journey level electrician certificate of competency,  
9 master specialty electrician certificate of competency, or specialty  
10 electrician certificate of competency issued by the department in  
11 accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of competency  
12 specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential, pump and  
13 irrigation, limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance,  
14 restricted nonresidential maintenance, and appliance repair. ~~((Until  
15 July 1, 2007, the department of labor and industries shall issue a  
16 written warning to any specialty pump and irrigation or domestic pump  
17 electrician not having a valid electrician certification. The warning  
18 will state that the individual must apply for an electrical training  
19 certificate or be qualified for and apply for electrician  
20 certification under the requirements in RCW 19.28.191(1)(g) within  
21 thirty calendar days of the warning. Only one warning will be issued  
22 to any individual. If the individual fails to comply with this  
23 section, the department shall issue a penalty as defined in RCW  
24 19.28.271 to the individual.))~~

25 (2)(a) A person who is ~~((indentured))~~: (i) Registered in an  
26 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the  
27 electrical construction trade ~~((or who is))~~; (ii) learning the  
28 electrical construction trade; or (iii) learning the electrical  
29 construction trade in a program described in RCW 19.28.191(1) (e) or  
30 (f) for a journey level certificate of competency may work in the  
31 electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified master  
32 journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master  
33 specialty electrician in that electrician's specialty, or specialty  
34 electrician in that electrician's specialty.

35 (b) All apprentices and individuals learning the electrical  
36 construction trade shall obtain an electrical training certificate  
37 from the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to  
38 learn the electrical construction trade while under the direct  
39 supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level

1 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that  
2 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that  
3 electrician's specialty. The certificate may include a photograph of  
4 the holder. The holder of the electrical training certificate shall  
5 renew the certificate biennially. At the time of renewal, the holder  
6 shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's  
7 employers in the electrical construction industry for the previous  
8 biennial period and the number of hours worked for each employer. The  
9 holder shall also provide proof of ~~((sixteen))~~ forty-eight hours of:  
10 Approved classroom training covering this chapter, the national  
11 electrical code, or electrical theory; or equivalent classroom  
12 training taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program under  
13 chapter 49.04 RCW or an approved electrical training program under  
14 RCW 19.28.191(1)~~((+h))~~ (e). ~~((The number of hours of approved  
15 classroom training required for certificate renewal shall increase as  
16 follows: (a) Beginning on July 1, 2011, the holder of an electrical  
17 training certificate shall provide the department with proof of  
18 thirty two hours of approved classroom training; and (b) beginning on  
19 July 1, 2013, the holder of an electrical training certificate shall  
20 provide the department with proof of forty eight hours of approved  
21 classroom training. At the request of the chairs of the house of  
22 representatives commerce and labor committee and the senate labor,  
23 commerce and consumer protection committee, or their successor  
24 committees, the department of labor and industries shall provide  
25 information on the implementation of the new classroom training  
26 requirements for electrical trainees to both committees by December  
27 1, 2012.))~~ A biennial fee shall be charged for the issuance or  
28 renewal of the certificate. The department shall set the fee by rule.  
29 The fee shall cover but not exceed the cost of administering and  
30 enforcing the trainee certification and supervision requirements of  
31 this chapter.

32 (c)(i) Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical  
33 construction trade shall have their electrical training certificates  
34 in their possession at all times that they are performing electrical  
35 work. They shall show their certificates to an authorized  
36 representative of the department at the representative's request.

37 (ii) Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical  
38 construction trade must also have in their possession proof of  
39 apprenticeship or training program registration. They shall show  
40 their apprenticeship or training program registration documents to an

1 authorized representative of the department at the representative's  
2 request. This subsection (2)(c)(ii) does not apply to individuals  
3 working in a specialty.

4 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training  
5 certificate under this chapter may work: (a) If that person is under  
6 supervision, and is (b)(i) registered in an approved journey level  
7 apprenticeship program, as appropriate; or (ii) learning the  
8 electrical construction trade in a program described in RCW  
9 19.28.191(1) (e) or (f) for a journey level certificate of  
10 competency. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same  
11 job site and under the control of either a certified master journey  
12 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty  
13 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty  
14 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Either a  
15 certified master journey level electrician, journey level  
16 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that  
17 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that  
18 electrician's specialty shall be on the same job site as the  
19 noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each  
20 working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

21 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master  
22 journey level electricians, journey level electricians, master  
23 specialty electricians, or specialty electricians on any one job site  
24 is as follows:

25 (a) When working as a specialty electrician, not more than two  
26 noncertified individuals for every certified master specialty  
27 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, specialty  
28 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, master journey  
29 level electrician, or journey level electrician, except that the  
30 ratio requirements are one certified master specialty electrician  
31 working in that electrician's specialty, specialty electrician  
32 working in that electrician's specialty, master journey level  
33 electrician, or journey level electrician working as a specialty  
34 electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working as  
35 part of an electrical construction program at public community or  
36 technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or  
37 technical schools licensed by the workforce training and education  
38 coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio  
39 requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction

1 program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and  
2 advice from the electrical board; and

3 (b) When working as a journey level electrician, not more than  
4 one noncertified individual for every certified master journey level  
5 electrician or journey level electrician, except that the ratio  
6 requirements shall be one certified master journey level electrician  
7 or journey level electrician to no more than four students enrolled  
8 in and working as part of an electrical construction program at  
9 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally  
10 accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the workforce  
11 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW.  
12 In meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an  
13 electrical construction program at a trade school, a trade school may  
14 receive input and advice from the electrical board.

15 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has  
16 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved  
17 apprenticeship program or in an electrical construction program at  
18 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally  
19 accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the workforce  
20 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,  
21 may work without direct on-site supervision during the last six  
22 months of meeting the practical experience requirements of this  
23 chapter.

24 (5) For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)),  
25 pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as  
26 specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy (as specified in  
27 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in  
28 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as  
29 determined by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential  
30 specialties, not including appliance repair, as determined by the  
31 department in rule, either a master journey level electrician,  
32 journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in  
33 that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in  
34 that electrician's specialty must be on the same job site as the  
35 noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each  
36 working day. Other specialties must meet the requirements specified  
37 in RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(g)~~) (d)(ii). When the ratio of certified  
38 electricians to noncertified individuals on a job site is one  
39 certified electrician to three or four noncertified individuals, the  
40 certified electrician must:

1 (a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals  
2 and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an  
3 electrical installation; and

4 (b) Be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a  
5 minimum of one hundred percent of each working day.

6 (6) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and attest  
7 to the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on  
8 behalf of the electrical contractor.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.205 and 2013 c 23 s 32 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) An applicant for a journey level certificate of competency  
12 under RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(f)~~) (c) or a specialty electrician  
13 certificate of competency under RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(g)~~) (d) must  
14 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department completion of in-  
15 class education as follows:

16 (a) Twenty-four hours of in-class education if two thousand hours  
17 or more but less than four thousand hours of work are required for  
18 the certificate;

19 (b) Forty-eight hours of in-class education if four thousand or  
20 more but less than six thousand hours of work are required for the  
21 certificate;

22 (c) Seventy-two hours of in-class education if six thousand or  
23 more but less than eight thousand hours of work are required for the  
24 certificate;

25 (d) Ninety-six hours of in-class education if eight thousand or  
26 more hours of work are required for the certificate.

27 (2) For purposes of this section, "in-class education" means  
28 approved classroom training covering this chapter, the national  
29 electric code, or electrical theory; or equivalent classroom training  
30 taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program under chapter  
31 49.04 RCW or an approved electrical training program under RCW  
32 19.28.191(1)(~~(h)~~) (e).

33 (3) Classroom training taken to qualify for trainee certificate  
34 renewal under RCW 19.28.161 qualifies as in-class education under  
35 this section.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 19.28  
37 RCW to read as follows:

1           (1) The department may permit an applicant who obtained  
2 experience and training equivalent to a journey level apprenticeship  
3 program to take the examination if the applicant establishes that the  
4 applicant has the equivalent training and experience and demonstrates  
5 good cause for not completing the required minimum hours of work  
6 under standards applicable on the effective date of this section.

7           (2) This section expires July 1, 2023.

--- END ---