

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6409

C 211 L 20
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Providing an exemption from electrical licensing, certification, and inspection for industrial equipment.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senator King).

Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce
House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards

Background: All wires, equipment, and installations that convey electric current must conform with the electrical laws of the state, which are administered by the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I). Electrical installations must comply with the National Electrical Code. An electrical contractor license is required to engage in the business of installing or maintaining wires or equipment to convey electric current, or equipment to be operated by electric current, and a certified electrician must perform the work. To be certified, an electrician must meet certain experience and education requirements. To work as an electrician, an individual must have a journey level (01) or specialty electrician certificate of competency.

Electrical work requires a permit and an inspection. L&I issues permits and inspects electrical installations. However, cities are authorized to enact ordinances or rules regulating electrical installations within their boundaries that are equal to, or higher, than the state standards for electrical work. If a city adopts its own electrical ordinance and enforces a standard, permitting and inspections are performed by the city instead of L&I.

Summary: A person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity, and the manufacturer's authorized engineers and factory-trained service technicians they employ, are exempt from electrical licensing, certification, and inspection requirements for the maintenance, repair, or replacement of components and the disconnection and reconnection of existing low voltage digital control system connections within the confines of the manufacturer's industrial equipment.

Except for disconnection and reconnection of existing low voltage digital control system connections, the exception to licensing, certification, and inspections requirements does not include:

- installation, maintenance, repair, disconnection, or reconnection of any premise's wiring or electrical equipment connected to industrial equipment;

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- on-site assembly of industrial equipment; or
- electrical interconnections between industrial equipment units.

Industrial equipment means utilization equipment that is:

- fully assembled at the manufacturer's facility;
- self-contained on a single skid or frame;
- of a type that conforms to applicable standards or is indicated as acceptable by the standards of an electrical product testing laboratory; and
- directly used in manufacturing or industrial processes not accessible to the public.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	46	0
House	96	0

Effective: June 11, 2020