
HOUSE BILL 1187

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Hoff and McEntire

Read first time 01/14/21. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing HVAC/refrigeration electricians to
2 perform electrical work on split ductless HVAC systems; adding a new
3 section to chapter 19.28 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the
6 installation of ductless mini split systems has increased across the
7 state as more customers look toward these systems for inexpensive,
8 zonal heating and cooling. Energy codes and other laws pushing for
9 more electrification of homes are also driving the move towards these
10 HVAC systems. The legislature further finds that HVAC/refrigeration
11 specialty electricians are trained and can safely connect the indoor
12 units to the installed outdoor units, as the circuits are specified
13 by the manufacturer, the type of cable used is standardized by
14 manufacturers, and the terminals on both ends are coded. This is more
15 cost-effective for consumers and efficient for home builders. It is
16 also important to allow specialty electricians to do this type of
17 work since there currently is a shortage of certified electricians in
18 the state. The legislature therefore intends to update the scope of
19 work for HVAC/refrigeration specialty electricians to allow them to
20 install, repair, replace, or maintain branch circuits from the

1 outdoor unit to the indoor unit or units of a split ductless HVAC
2 system.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.28
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The scope of work for the HVAC/refrigeration specialty or
6 specialties involves installing, repairing, replacing, or maintaining
7 HVAC/refrigeration systems and related equipment as specified by rule
8 of the department. For work on split ductless HVAC systems, the HVAC/
9 refrigeration specialty scope of work includes the installation,
10 repair, replacement, or maintenance of branch circuits between the
11 outdoor unit and the indoor unit or units of split ductless HVAC
12 systems under the following conditions:

13 (1) The branch circuit supplying the outdoor unit has been
14 installed by a journey level electrician or residential specialty
15 electrician;

16 (2) The indoor unit or units are located in dwelling units;

17 (3) The wiring method is limited to cable type, size, and cable
18 length as specified by the manufacturer of the HVAC system;

19 (4) The cable is protected by an appropriately sized overcurrent
20 device located in the outdoor unit or as specified by the
21 manufacturer of the split ductless HVAC system; and

22 (5) All HVAC system components are listed and labeled by a
23 testing laboratory accredited by the department and manufacturer
24 instructions for cable installation and termination are included and
25 complied with.

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