
SENATE BILL 5599

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Saldaña, Keiser, Conway, Das, Hasegawa, Lias, Nobles, and C. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to journey level electrician certifications of
2 competency; amending RCW 19.28.191; repealing RCW 19.28.195; and
3 providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2020 c 153 s 26 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

1 (i) Successfully completed ((an)) the work experience and
2 education requirements of an 8,000 hour electrical construction trade
3 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW ((or
4 equivalent apprenticeship program approved by the department for the
5 electrical construction trade in which the applicant worked in the
6 electrical construction trade for a minimum of eight thousand
7 hours)). Four thousand of the hours shall be new electrical

8 installations in industrial or commercial ((electrical installation))
9 facilities under the supervision of a master journey level
10 electrician or journey level electrician and not more than a total of
11 ((four thousand)) 4,000 hours in all specialties under the
12 supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level
13 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
14 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
15 electrician's specialty. Specialty electricians with less than a
16 ((four thousand)) 4,000 hour work experience requirement cannot
17 credit the time required to obtain that specialty towards qualifying
18 to become a journey level electrician. The holder of a specialty
19 electrician certificate of competency with a ((four thousand)) 4,000
20 hour work experience requirement shall be allowed to credit the work
21 experience required to obtain that certificate towards apprenticeship
22 requirements for qualifying to take the examination for a journey
23 level electrician certificate of competency;

24 (ii) Successfully completed an 8,000 hour electrical construction
25 trade apprenticeship program in another jurisdiction equivalent to an
26 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW. Four
27 thousand of the hours shall be new electrical installations in
28 industrial or commercial facilities;

29 (iii) At least 16,000 hours experience in the electrical
30 construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and
31 equipment in another jurisdiction. Eight thousand of the hours shall
32 be new electrical installations in industrial or commercial
33 facilities; or

34 (iv) Eight thousand hours of experience in the electrical
35 construction trade while serving in a construction battalion in the
36 armed forces of the United States.

37 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty
38 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have:

39 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC
40 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC

1 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),
2 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),
3 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),
4 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the
5 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level
6 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
7 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
8 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of (~~four~~
9 ~~thousand~~) 4,000 hours;

10 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by
11 the department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as
12 determined by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty
13 as determined by the department in rule, the pump and irrigation
14 specialty other than as defined by (d)(i) of this subsection or
15 domestic pump specialty as determined by the department in rule, or a
16 specialty other than the designated specialties in (d)(i) of this
17 subsection for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set
18 by rule by the department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance
19 specialty is limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for
20 lighting branch circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes
21 for other circuits excluding the replacement or repair of circuit
22 breakers. The department may alter the scope of work for the
23 restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule. The initial
24 period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a
25 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master
26 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or
27 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After
28 this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If
29 the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised
30 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A
31 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the
32 appliance repair specialty or in a specialty other than the
33 designated specialties in (d)(i) of this subsection, however, until
34 the person has worked a minimum of (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours in
35 that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department;

36 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program
37 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the
38 electrical construction trade; or

39 (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and
40 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be

1 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same
2 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW
3 18.106.040(1)(d). After meeting the training requirements provided in
4 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon
5 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as
6 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a
7 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying
8 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate
9 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty
10 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(14)(c) with the
11 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in
12 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional
13 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this
14 subsection. The department shall establish a single document for
15 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as
16 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification
17 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW
18 18.106.010(14)(c), showing that the individual has received both
19 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be
20 imposed.

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

38 (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of
39 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a
40 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public

1 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally
2 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce
3 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,
4 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school
5 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level
6 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
7 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
8 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has
9 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed
10 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service
11 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an
12 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

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

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

21 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of
22 (~~two thousand four hundred~~) 2,400 hours of student/instructor
23 contact time must be technical electrical instruction directly
24 related to the scope of work of the electrical specialty. Student/
25 instructor contact time includes lecture and in-school lab.

26 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that
27 accepts more than (~~one thousand~~) 1,000 hours transferred from
28 another school's program.

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

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

38 (h) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

39 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
40 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.

1 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the
2 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
3 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
4 instructions for taking the examination.

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

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.195 (Examination—Exception for
11 equivalent training and experience) and 2018 c 249 s 4 are each
12 repealed.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act takes effect July 1,
14 2023.

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