
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5320

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senate Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Saldaña, Keiser, King, Randall, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/23.

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

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2020 c 153 s 26 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) 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 (b) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty
18 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have
19 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in
20 the specialty applied for, for two years.

1 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey level
2 certificate of competency, the applicant must have (~~successfully~~
3 ~~completed an~~):

4 (i) Successfully completed the work experience and education
5 requirements of an 8,000 hour electrical construction trade
6 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW (~~or~~
7 equivalent apprenticeship program approved by the department for the
8 electrical construction trade in which the applicant worked in the
9 electrical construction trade for a minimum of eight thousand
10 hours)). Four thousand of the hours (~~shall~~) must be (~~in~~) new
11 industrial or commercial electrical (~~installation~~) installations
12 under the supervision of a master journey level electrician or
13 journey level electrician and not more than a total of (~~four~~
14 thousand) 4,000 hours in all specialties under the supervision of a
15 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master
16 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or
17 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.
18 Specialty electricians with less than a (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour
19 work experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain
20 that specialty towards qualifying to become a journey level
21 electrician. The holder of a specialty electrician certificate of
22 competency with a (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour work experience
23 requirement shall be allowed to credit the work experience required
24 to obtain that certificate towards apprenticeship requirements for
25 qualifying to take the examination for a journey level electrician
26 certificate of competency;

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

32 (iii) An out-of-state journey level electrician certificate
33 obtained through examination by a state licensing jurisdiction
34 requiring at least 8,000 hours of supervised experience in the
35 electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical
36 wiring and equipment for installations of a type regulated under this
37 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or
38 commercial electrical installations. All experience applied toward
39 qualifying for examination must be experience gained in the state

1 that issued the certificate or military experience not exceeding that
2 allowed under this chapter, or both;

3 (iv) At least 16,000 hours of out-of-state experience in the
4 electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical
5 wiring and equipment for installations of a type regulated under this
6 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or
7 commercial electrical installations; or

8 (v) Eight thousand hours of experience in the electrical
9 construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and
10 equipment for installations of a type regulated under this chapter
11 while serving in a construction battalion in the armed forces of the
12 United States.

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

15 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC
16 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC
17 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),
18 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),
19 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),
20 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the
21 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level
22 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
23 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
24 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of (~~four~~
25 ~~thousand~~) 4,000 hours;

26 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by
27 the department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as
28 determined by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty
29 as determined by the department in rule, the pump and irrigation
30 specialty other than as defined by (d)(i) of this subsection or
31 domestic pump specialty as determined by the department in rule, or a
32 specialty other than the designated specialties in (d)(i) of this
33 subsection for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set
34 by rule by the department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance
35 specialty is limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for
36 lighting branch circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes
37 for other circuits excluding the replacement or repair of circuit
38 breakers. The department may alter the scope of work for the
39 restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule. The initial
40 period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a

1 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master
2 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or
3 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After
4 this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If
5 the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised
6 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A
7 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the
8 appliance repair specialty or in a specialty other than the
9 designated specialties in (d)(i) of this subsection, however, until
10 the person has worked a minimum of (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours in
11 that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department;

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

15 (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and
16 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be
17 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same
18 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW
19 18.106.040(1)(d). After meeting the training requirements provided in
20 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon
21 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as
22 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a
23 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying
24 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate
25 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty
26 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(14)(c) with the
27 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in
28 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional
29 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this
30 subsection. The department shall establish a single document for
31 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as
32 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification
33 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW
34 18.106.010(14)(c), showing that the individual has received both
35 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be
36 imposed.

37 (e) Any applicant for a journey level electrician certificate of
38 competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the
39 electrical construction trade at public community or technical
40 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade

1 schools licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating
2 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to two years of the
3 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience
4 under a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician
5 required under the apprenticeship program. The applicant shall obtain
6 the additional two years of work experience required in industrial or
7 commercial electrical installation prior to the beginning, or after
8 the completion, of the technical school program. Any applicant who
9 has received training in the electrical construction trade in the
10 armed service of the United States may be eligible to apply armed
11 service work experience towards qualification to complete an
12 apprenticeship and take the examination for the journey level
13 electrician certificate of competency.

14 (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of
15 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a
16 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public
17 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally
18 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce
19 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,
20 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school
21 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level
22 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
23 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
24 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has
25 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed
26 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service
27 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an
28 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

29 (g) The department must determine whether hours of training and
30 experience in the armed services or school program are in the
31 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for
32 hours of work experience. The department must use the following
33 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical
34 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

35 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of
36 (~~three thousand~~) 3,000 or more hours.

37 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of
38 (~~two thousand four hundred~~) 2,400 hours of student/instructor
39 contact time must be technical electrical instruction directly

1 related to the scope of work of the electrical specialty. Student/
2 instructor contact time includes lecture and in-school lab.

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

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

11 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not
12 be credited towards qualification for journey level electrician
13 unless the training program is used to gain qualification for a
14 (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour electrical specialty.

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

16 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
17 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.
18 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the
19 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
20 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
21 instructions for taking the examination.

22 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than
23 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test
24 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after
25 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of
26 this section, "full-time basis" means (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.195 and 2018 c 249 s 4 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) (~~The~~) Until July 1, 2026, notwithstanding RCW
30 19.28.161(2)(a)(i) and 19.28.191(1)(c)(i), the department ((may))
31 shall permit ((an applicant who obtained experience and training
32 equivalent to a journey level apprenticeship program to take the
33 examination if the applicant establishes that the applicant has the
34 equivalent training and experience and demonstrates good cause for
35 not completing the required minimum hours of work under standards
36 applicable on July 1, 2023)):

37 (a) A person issued an electrical training certificate to work to
38 gain the experience required to qualify for the journey level
39 electrician certification examination without registering in an

1 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW or equivalent
2 out-of-state apprenticeship program if before July 1, 2023, the
3 trainee has:

4 (i) 3,000 hours of lawful experience worked in the electrical
5 construction trade regulated under this chapter; or

6 (ii) Completed a two-year training school program pursuant to RCW
7 19.28.191(1)(e).

8 (b) Electrical trainees described in (a) of this subsection to
9 qualify for the journey level electrician certification examination
10 without completing the work and education requirements of an
11 apprenticeship approved under chapter 49.04 RCW or completing an
12 equivalent out-of-state apprenticeship program. To be eligible to
13 take the examination for a journey level certificate of competency,
14 the applicant must demonstrate 8,000 hours of lawful experience
15 working in the electrical construction trade regulated under this
16 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or
17 commercial electrical installations.

18 (2) This section expires July 1, (~~2025~~) 2026.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
21 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
22 effect July 1, 2023.

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