
HOUSE BILL 2500

State of Washington

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2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Reykdal, Tarleton, Sells, Ormsby, Fitzgibbon, Morrell, Roberts, and Riccelli

Read first time 01/20/14. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring completion of an apprenticeship
2 program to receive a journeyman or residential specialty electrician
3 certificate of competency; amending RCW 19.28.161 and 19.28.191; adding
4 a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW; providing an effective date; and
5 providing an expiration date.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.161 and 2013 c 23 s 29 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade
10 without having a valid master journey level electrician certificate of
11 competency, journey level electrician certificate of competency, master
12 specialty electrician certificate of competency, or specialty
13 electrician certificate of competency issued by the department in
14 accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of competency
15 specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential, pump and
16 irrigation, limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance,
17 restricted nonresidential maintenance, and appliance repair. ~~((Until~~
18 ~~July 1, 2007, the department of labor and industries shall issue a~~
19 ~~written warning to any specialty pump and irrigation or domestic pump~~

1 ~~electrician not having a valid electrician certification. The warning~~
2 ~~will state that the individual must apply for an electrical training~~
3 ~~certificate or be qualified for and apply for electrician certification~~
4 ~~under the requirements in RCW 19.28.191(1)(g) within thirty calendar~~
5 ~~days of the warning. Only one warning will be issued to any~~
6 ~~individual. If the individual fails to comply with this section, the~~
7 ~~department shall issue a penalty as defined in RCW 19.28.271 to the~~
8 ~~individual.))~~

9 (2) A person who is ~~((indentured))~~: (a) Registered in an
10 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the
11 electrical construction trade ((or who is)); (b) learning the
12 electrical construction trade in a specialty other than residential; or
13 (c) learning the electrical construction trade in a program described
14 in RCW 19.28.191(1) (h) or (i) for a journeyman or residential
15 specialty certificate of competency may work in the electrical
16 construction trade if supervised by a certified master journey level
17 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician in
18 that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician in that
19 electrician's specialty. All apprentices and individuals learning the
20 electrical construction trade shall obtain an electrical training
21 certificate from the department. The certificate shall authorize the
22 holder to learn the electrical construction trade while under the
23 direct supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level
24 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's
25 specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's
26 specialty. The certificate may include a photograph of the holder.
27 The holder of the electrical training certificate shall renew the
28 certificate biennially. At the time of renewal, the holder shall
29 provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's employers
30 in the electrical construction industry for the previous biennial
31 period and the number of hours worked for each employer. The holder
32 shall also provide proof of ~~((sixteen hours of: Approved classroom~~
33 ~~training covering this chapter, the national electrical code, or~~
34 ~~electrical theory; or equivalent classroom training taken as part of an~~
35 ~~approved apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW or an approved~~
36 ~~electrical training program under RCW 19.28.191(1)(h). The number of~~
37 ~~hours of approved classroom training required for certificate renewal~~
38 ~~shall increase as follows: (a) Beginning on July 1, 2011, the holder~~

1 ~~of an electrical training certificate shall provide the department with~~
2 ~~proof of thirty two hours of approved classroom training; and (b)~~
3 ~~beginning on July 1, 2013, the holder of an electrical training~~
4 ~~certificate shall provide the department with proof of))~~ forty-eight
5 hours of approved classroom training. ((~~At the request of the chairs~~
6 ~~of the house of representatives commerce and labor committee and the~~
7 ~~senate labor, commerce and consumer protection committee, or their~~
8 ~~successor committees, the department of labor and industries shall~~
9 ~~provide information on the implementation of the new classroom training~~
10 ~~requirements for electrical trainees to both committees by December 1,~~
11 ~~2012.)) A biennial fee shall be charged for the issuance or renewal of
12 the certificate. The department shall set the fee by rule. The fee
13 shall cover but not exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the
14 trainee certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.
15 Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade
16 shall have their electrical training certificates in their possession
17 at all times that they are performing electrical work. They shall show
18 their certificates to an authorized representative of the department at
19 the representative's request.~~

20 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training
21 certificate under this chapter may work if: (a) That person is under
22 supervision, and (b) if that person is seeking a journeyman or
23 residential specialty certificate of competency, is registered in an
24 approved journeyman or residential specialty, as appropriate,
25 apprenticeship program, or learning the electrical construction trade
26 in a program described in RCW 19.28.191(1) (h) or (i) for a journeyman
27 or residential specialty certificate of competency. Supervision shall
28 consist of a person being on the same job site and under the control of
29 either a certified master journey level electrician, journey level
30 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's
31 specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's
32 specialty. Either a certified master journey level electrician,
33 journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
34 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
35 electrician's specialty shall be on the same job site as the
36 noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each
37 working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

1 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master
2 journey level electricians, journey level electricians, master
3 specialty electricians, or specialty electricians on any one job site
4 is as follows:

5 (a) When working as a specialty electrician, not more than two
6 noncertified individuals for every certified master specialty
7 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, specialty
8 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, master journey
9 level electrician, or journey level electrician, except that the ratio
10 requirements are one certified master specialty electrician working in
11 that electrician's specialty, specialty electrician working in that
12 electrician's specialty, master journey level electrician, or journey
13 level electrician working as a specialty electrician to no more than
14 four students enrolled in and working as part of an electrical
15 construction program at public community or technical colleges, or not-
16 for-profit nationally accredited trade or technical schools licensed by
17 the workforce training and education coordinating board under chapter
18 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in
19 an electrical construction program at a trade school, a trade school
20 may receive input and advice from the electrical board; and

21 (b) When working as a journey level electrician, not more than one
22 noncertified individual for every certified master journey level
23 electrician or journey level electrician, except that the ratio
24 requirements shall be one certified master journey level electrician or
25 journey level electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and
26 working as part of an electrical construction program at public
27 community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
28 accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the workforce
29 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In
30 meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an electrical
31 construction program at a trade school, a trade school may receive
32 input and advice from the electrical board.

33 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has
34 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved
35 apprenticeship program or in an electrical construction program at
36 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
37 accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the workforce

1 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may
2 work without direct on-site supervision during the last six months of
3 meeting the practical experience requirements of this chapter.

4 (5) For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)),
5 pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as
6 specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy (as specified in
7 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC
8 296-46B-920(2)(g)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined
9 by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential specialties, not
10 including appliance repair, as determined by the department in rule,
11 either a master journey level electrician, journey level electrician,
12 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,
13 or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty must
14 be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a minimum of
15 seventy-five percent of each working day. Other specialties must meet
16 the requirements specified in RCW 19.28.191(1)(g)(ii). When the ratio
17 of certified electricians to noncertified individuals on a job site is
18 one certified electrician to three or four noncertified individuals,
19 the certified electrician must:

20 (a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals
21 and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an
22 electrical installation; and

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

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

28 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2013 c 23 s 30 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review
31 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take
32 an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey level
33 electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician
34 certificate of competency.

35 (a) (~~Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid~~
36 ~~journey level electrician certificate of competency in effect for the~~

1 ~~previous four years and a valid general administrator's certificate may~~
2 ~~apply for a master journey level electrician certificate of competency~~
3 ~~without examination.~~

4 ~~(b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid~~
5 ~~specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty~~
6 ~~applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty~~
7 ~~administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply~~
8 ~~for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without~~
9 ~~examination.~~

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

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

15 ~~(ii) A person who provides evidence in a form prescribed by the~~
16 ~~department affirming that: (A) He or she was employed as of April 1,~~
17 ~~2003, by a factory authorized equipment dealer or service company; and~~
18 ~~(B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of four~~
19 ~~thousand hours.~~

20 ~~(d)) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journey~~
21 ~~level electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have~~
22 ~~possessed a valid journey level electrician certificate of competency~~
23 ~~for four years.~~

24 ~~((e)) (b) To be eligible to take the examination for a master~~
25 ~~specialty electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must~~
26 ~~have possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency,~~
27 ~~in the specialty applied for, for two years.~~

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

30 ~~(i)) successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved~~
31 ~~under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade in which~~
32 ~~the applicant worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum~~
33 ~~of eight thousand hours(, of which)). Four thousand of the hours~~
34 ~~shall be in industrial or commercial electrical installation under the~~
35 ~~supervision of a master journey level electrician or journey level~~
36 ~~electrician and not more than a total of four thousand hours in all~~
37 ~~specialties under the supervision of a master journey level~~
38 ~~electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician~~

1 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
2 working in that electrician's specialty. Specialty electricians with
3 less than a four thousand hour work experience requirement cannot
4 credit the time required to obtain that specialty towards qualifying to
5 become a journey level electrician(~~(+or~~

6 ~~(ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved~~
7 ~~under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.~~

8 ~~(g))~~ (d) To be eligible to take the examination for ~~((a))~~ the
9 following specialty electrician certificates of competency, the
10 applicant must have:

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

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

1 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A
2 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance
3 repair specialty or in a specialty other than the designated
4 specialities in ~~((g))~~ (d)(i) of this subsection, however, until the
5 person has worked a minimum of two thousand hours in that specialty, or
6 longer if set by rule by the department;

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

10 (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and
11 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be
12 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same
13 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW
14 18.106.040(1)(c). After meeting the training requirements provided in
15 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon passing
16 the examination, meeting additional training requirements as may still
17 be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a domestic pump
18 specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying the applicable
19 fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate certificate. The
20 department may include an examination for specialty plumbing
21 certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) with the examination
22 required by this section. The department, by rule and in consultation
23 with the electrical board, may establish additional equivalent ways to
24 gain the experience requirements required by this subsection.
25 Individuals who are able to provide evidence to the department, prior
26 to January 1, 2007, that they have been employed as a pump installer in
27 the pump and irrigation or domestic pump business by an appropriately
28 licensed electrical contractor, registered general contractor defined
29 by chapter 18.27 RCW, or appropriate general specialty contractor
30 defined by chapter 18.27 RCW for not less than eight thousand hours in
31 the most recent six calendar years shall be issued the appropriate
32 certificate by the department upon receiving such documentation and
33 applicable fees. The department shall establish a single document for
34 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as
35 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification
36 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW
37 18.106.010(10)(c), showing that the individual has received both

1 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be
2 imposed.

3 ~~((h))~~ (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a
4 residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)) specialty
5 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have
6 successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program under chapter
7 49.04 RCW for the residential specialty electrical construction trade
8 in which the applicant worked under the supervision of a master journey
9 level electrician, journey level electrician, master residential
10 specialty electrician, or residential specialty electrician working for
11 a minimum of four thousand hours.

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

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

1 electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in
2 the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United
3 States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards
4 qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty
5 electrician certificate of competency. An applicant for a residential
6 specialty certificate of competency may substitute work experience
7 under this section only as part of an apprenticeship program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 ((+k)) (h) 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. In
35 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.
36 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.

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

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

8 The department may permit an applicant who obtained experience and
9 training equivalent to a journeyman or residential specialty
10 apprenticeship program to take the examination if the applicant
11 establishes that the applicant has the equivalent training and
12 experience and demonstrates good cause for not completing the required
13 minimum hours of work under standards applicable on the effective date
14 of this section.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 3 of this act expires July 1, 2021.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect July 1, 2019.

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