

**Implementation of New Classroom Training
Requirements for Electrical Trainees
2012 Report to the Legislature
Pursuant to RCW 19.28.161**

December 2012

“Keep Washington Safe and Working”

Introduction

Pursuant to RCW 19.28.161¹, the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) submits this report at the request of the chairs of the House of Representatives Labor and Workforce Development Committee and the Senate Labor, Commerce, and Consumer Protection Committee. In this report, L&I shares information on the implementation of new classroom training requirements from Chapter 33, Laws of 2010 (Substitute House Bill 2546) for electrical trainees.

Brief Summary

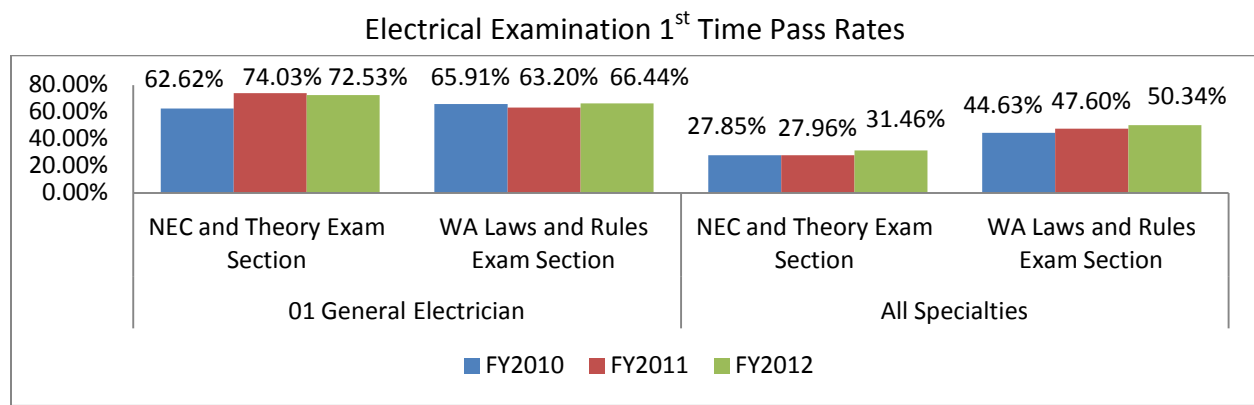
Industry proposed legislation to increase the hours of classroom education required for renewal of electrical training certificates. Having a better educated workforce increases the likelihood of safer electrical installations; which are a benefit to public safety. Training certificates are renewed every two years until the trainee passes a certification examination. The law increased the number of classroom hours required to renew an electrical training certificate from 16 to 32 beginning on July 1, 2011, and from 32 to 48 beginning on July 1, 2013.

Implementation

The increase was communicated through the Electrical Program's website, renewal letters sent to trainees sixty days prior to renewal, and to approximately 7,000 subscribers of the *Electrical Currents* Newsletter. Training providers have met the current market demand for more courses. Currently, there are 226 approved classroom training courses available to all electrical trainees. There are an additional 31 classes only available to those enrolled in the sponsoring apprenticeship or training school.

Results

Early indications, as evidenced in the chart below, appear to show better first time pass rates on electrical examinations.



¹ The Department of Labor and Industries shall provide information on the implementation of the new classroom training requirements for electrical trainees to both committees by December 1, 2012.

Future Considerations

Electrical examination first time pass rates are expected to continue to increase through 2013. By then, all trainees will have fulfilled the new training requirements and new examination prerequisite training requirements of Chapter 32, Laws of 2012 (Senate Bill 6133).