
HOUSE BILL 2546

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By Representatives Van De Wege, Conway, Morrell, Angel, Dunshee, and Santos

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1 AN ACT Relating to classroom training for electrical trainees;
2 amending RCW 19.28.161; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.161 and 2009 c 36 s 7 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade
7 without having a valid master journeyman electrician certificate of
8 competency, journeyman electrician certificate of competency, master
9 specialty electrician certificate of competency, or specialty
10 electrician certificate of competency issued by the department in
11 accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of competency
12 specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential, pump and
13 irrigation, limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance,
14 restricted nonresidential maintenance, and appliance repair. Until
15 July 1, 2007, the department of labor and industries shall issue a
16 written warning to any specialty pump and irrigation or domestic pump
17 electrician not having a valid electrician certification. The warning
18 will state that the individual must apply for an electrical training
19 certificate or be qualified for and apply for electrician certification

1 under the requirements in RCW 19.28.191(1)(g) within thirty calendar
2 days of the warning. Only one warning will be issued to any
3 individual. If the individual fails to comply with this section, the
4 department shall issue a penalty as defined in RCW 19.28.271 to the
5 individual.

6 (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program
7 approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade
8 or who is learning the electrical construction trade may work in the
9 electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified master
10 journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty
11 electrician in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
12 in that electrician's specialty. All apprentices and individuals
13 learning the electrical construction trade shall obtain an electrical
14 training certificate from the department. The certificate shall
15 authorize the holder to learn the electrical construction trade while
16 under the direct supervision of a master journeyman electrician,
17 journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
18 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
19 electrician's specialty. The certificate may include a photograph of
20 the holder. The holder of the electrical training certificate shall
21 renew the certificate biennially. At the time of renewal, the holder
22 shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's
23 employers in the electrical construction industry for the previous
24 biennial period and the number of hours worked for each employer(~~(~~
25 ~~and~~)). The holder shall also provide proof of ((~~sixteen~~)) forty-eight
26 hours of: Approved classroom ((~~electrical continuing education~~
27 ~~courses~~)) training covering this chapter, the national electrical code,
28 or electrical theory(~~(~~); or ((~~the~~)) equivalent ((~~electrical~~))
29 classroom training ((~~courses~~)) taken as part of an approved
30 apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW or an approved
31 electrical training program under RCW 19.28.191(1)(h). ((~~This~~
32 ~~education requirement is effective July 1, 2007.~~)) A biennial fee
33 shall be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The
34 department shall set the fee by rule. The fee shall cover but not
35 exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee
36 certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.
37 Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade
38 shall have their electrical training certificates in their possession

1 at all times that they are performing electrical work. They shall show
2 their certificates to an authorized representative of the department at
3 the representative's request.

4 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training
5 certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under
6 supervision. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same
7 job site and under the control of either a certified master journeyman
8 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician
9 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
10 working in that electrician's specialty. Either a certified master
11 journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty
12 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
13 electrician working in that electrician's specialty shall be on the
14 same job site as the noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-
15 five percent of each working day unless otherwise provided in this
16 chapter.

17 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master
18 journeymen electricians, journeymen electricians, master specialty
19 electricians, or specialty electricians on any one job site is as
20 follows:

21 (a) When working as a specialty electrician, not more than two
22 noncertified individuals for every certified master specialty
23 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, specialty
24 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, master journeyman
25 electrician, or journeyman electrician, except that the ratio
26 requirements are one certified master specialty electrician working in
27 that electrician's specialty, specialty electrician working in that
28 electrician's specialty, master journeyman electrician, or journeyman
29 electrician working as a specialty electrician to no more than four
30 students enrolled in and working as part of an electrical construction
31 program at public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit
32 nationally accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the
33 workforce training and education coordinating board under chapter
34 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in
35 an electrical construction program at a trade school, a trade school
36 may receive input and advice from the electrical board; and

37 (b) When working as a journeyman electrician, not more than one
38 noncertified individual for every certified master journeyman

1 electrician or journeyman electrician, except that the ratio
2 requirements shall be one certified master journeyman electrician or
3 journeyman electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and
4 working as part of an electrical construction program at public
5 community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
6 accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the workforce
7 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In
8 meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an electrical
9 construction program at a trade school, a trade school may receive
10 input and advice from the electrical board.

11 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has
12 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved
13 apprenticeship program or in an electrical construction program at
14 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
15 accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the workforce
16 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may
17 work without direct on-site supervision during the last six months of
18 meeting the practical experience requirements of this chapter.

19 (5) For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)),
20 pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as
21 specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy (as specified in
22 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC
23 296-46B-920(2)(g)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined
24 by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential specialties, not
25 including appliance repair, as determined by the department in rule,
26 either a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master
27 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or
28 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty must be
29 on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a minimum of
30 seventy-five percent of each working day. Other specialties must meet
31 the requirements specified in RCW 19.28.191(1)(g)(ii). When the ratio
32 of certified electricians to noncertified individuals on a job site is
33 one certified electrician to three or four noncertified individuals,
34 the certified electrician must:

35 (a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals
36 and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an
37 electrical installation; and

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

3 (6) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and attest to
4 the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on behalf of
5 the electrical contractor.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 1, 2011.

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