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HOUSE BILL 1361

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Clements, Skinner and Honeyford

Read first time 01/23/97. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            AN ACT Relating to regulation of electricians and electrical  
2 installations; and amending RCW 19.28.510, 19.28.520, and 19.28.530.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.510 and 1996 c 241 s 6 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade  
7 without having a current journeyman electrician certificate of  
8 competency or a current specialty electrician certificate of competency  
9 issued by the department in accordance with this chapter. Electrician  
10 certificate of competency specialties include, but are not limited to:  
11 Residential, domestic appliances, pump and irrigation, limited energy  
12 system, signs, and nonresidential maintenance.

13            (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program  
14 approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade  
15 or who is learning the electrical construction trade may work in the  
16 electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified journeyman  
17 electrician or a certified specialty electrician in that electrician's  
18 specialty. All apprentices and individuals learning the electrical  
19 construction trade shall obtain an electrical training certificate from

1 the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to learn  
2 the electrical construction trade while under the direct supervision of  
3 a journeyman electrician or a specialty electrician working in his or  
4 her specialty. The holder of the electrical training certificate shall  
5 renew the certificate annually. At the time of renewal, the holder  
6 shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's  
7 employers in the electrical construction industry for the previous year  
8 and the number of hours worked for each employer. An annual fee shall  
9 be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The  
10 department shall set the fee by rule. The fee shall cover but not  
11 exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee  
12 certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.  
13 Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade  
14 shall have their electrical training certificates in their possession  
15 at all times that they are performing electrical work. They shall show  
16 their certificates to an authorized representative of the department at  
17 the representative's request.

18 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training  
19 certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under  
20 supervision. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same  
21 job site and under the control of either a journeyman electrician or an  
22 appropriate specialty electrician who has an applicable certificate of  
23 competency issued under this chapter. Either a journeyman electrician  
24 or an appropriate specialty electrician shall be on the same job site  
25 as the noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of  
26 each working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter. The ratio  
27 of noncertified individuals to certified journeymen or specialty  
28 electricians working on a job site shall be:

29 (a) From September 1, 1979, through December 31, 1982, not more  
30 than three noncertified electricians working on any one job site for  
31 every certified journeyman or specialty electrician;

32 (b) Effective January 1, 1983, not more than two noncertified  
33 individuals working on any one job site for every specialty electrician  
34 or journeyman electrician working as a specialty electrician;

35 (c) Effective January 1, 1983, not more than one noncertified  
36 individual working on any one job site for every certified journeyman  
37 electrician.

38 The ratio requirements do not apply to ((a)) trade schools and  
39 their programs in the electrical construction trade ((established

1 during 1946)) if the programs are approved by the licensing process of  
2 the work force training and education coordinating board under chapter  
3 28C.18 RCW or if the schools are approved under chapter 28B.85 RCW.

4 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has  
5 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved  
6 apprenticeship program or in a technical or trade school program in the  
7 electrical construction trade in a school approved by the commission  
8 for vocational education, may work without direct on-site supervision  
9 during the last six months of meeting the practical experience  
10 requirements of this chapter.

11 (4) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and attest to  
12 the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on behalf of  
13 the electrical contractor.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.520 and 1980 c 30 s 3 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 Any person desiring to be issued a certificate of competency as  
17 provided in this chapter shall deliver evidence in a form prescribed by  
18 the department affirming that said person has met the qualifications  
19 required under RCW 19.28.530(~~(, as now or hereafter amended)~~). An  
20 electrician from another jurisdiction applying for a certificate of  
21 competency must provide evidence in a form prescribed by the department  
22 affirming that the person has the equivalent qualifications to those  
23 required under RCW 19.28.530.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.530 and 1988 c 81 s 13 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review  
27 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take  
28 an examination for the journeyman or specialty certificate of  
29 competency.

30 (a) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman  
31 certificate the applicant must have:

32 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of  
33 four years employed full time, of which two years shall be in  
34 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision  
35 of a journeyman electrician (~~(certified under this chapter)~~) and not  
36 more than a total of two years in all specialties under the supervision  
37 of a journeyman electrician (~~(certified under this chapter)~~) or an

1 appropriate specialty electrician (~~certified under this chapter or~~  
2 have)) i or

3 (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved  
4 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade or  
5 successfully completed a technical or trade school program in the  
6 electrical construction trade in a program that is licensed by the work  
7 force training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.18  
8 RCW or in a school that is approved under chapter 28B.85 RCW.

9 (b) To be eligible to take the examination to become a specialty  
10 electrician the applicant shall have:

11 (i) Worked in that specialty of the electrical construction trade,  
12 under the supervision of a journeyman electrician (~~certified under~~  
13 this chapter)) or an appropriate specialty electrician (~~certified~~  
14 under this chapter)), for a minimum of two years employed full  
15 time(~~(7)~~); or ((have))

16 (ii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program  
17 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the electrical  
18 construction trade(~~(-~~

19 ~~Before January 1, 1984, applicants for nonresidential maintenance~~  
20 ~~specialty licenses are eligible to become nonresidential maintenance~~  
21 ~~specialists upon certification to the department that they have the~~  
22 ~~equivalent of two years full-time experience in that specialty field.~~  
23 ~~Persons applying before January 1, 1984, for a journeyman certificate~~  
24 ~~are eligible to take the examination to become journeymen until July 1,~~  
25 ~~1984, upon certification to the department that they have the~~  
26 ~~equivalent of five years full-time experience in nonresidential~~  
27 ~~maintenance, of which two years shall be in industrial electrical~~  
28 ~~installation)) or successfully completed a technical or trade school~~  
29 ~~program in the applicant's specialty in the electrical construction~~  
30 ~~trade in a program that is licenced by the work force training and~~  
31 ~~education coordinating board under chapter 28C.18 RCW or in a school~~  
32 ~~that is approved under chapter 28B.85 RCW.~~

33 (c) Any applicant who has successfully completed a two-year  
34 technical or trade school program in the electrical construction trade,  
35 in a program that is licensed by the work force training and education  
36 coordinating board under chapter 28C.18 RCW, or in a school that is  
37 approved (~~by the commission for vocational education~~))under chapter  
38 28B.85 RCW, may substitute up to two years of the technical or trade  
39 school program for two years of work experience under a journeyman

1 electrician. The applicant shall obtain the additional two years of  
2 work experience required in industrial or commercial electrical  
3 installation prior to the beginning, or after the completion, of the  
4 technical or trade school program. Any applicant who has received  
5 training in the electrical construction trade in the armed service of  
6 the United States may be eligible to take the examination for the  
7 certificate of competency. (~~Any applicant who is a graduate of a~~  
8 ~~trade school program in the electrical construction trade that was~~  
9 ~~established during 1946 is eligible to take the examination for the~~  
10 ~~certificate of competency.~~)

11 (d) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

12 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the  
13 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In  
14 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.  
15 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
16 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating  
17 the time and place for taking the examination.

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