
HOUSE BILL 1373

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives B. Chandler, Clements, McMorris and Lisk

Read first time 01/24/2001. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to certificates of competency for specialty
2 electricians; and amending RCW 19.28.161 and 19.28.191.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.161 and 1997 c 309 s 1 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
9 competency issued by the department in accordance with this
10 chapter. Electrician certificate of competency specialties include,
11 but are not limited to: Residential, domestic appliances, pump
12 and irrigation, limited energy system, signs, and nonresidential
13 maintenance.

14 (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program
15 approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction
16 trade or who is learning the electrical construction trade may
17 work in the electrical construction trade if supervised by a
18 certified journeyman electrician or a certified specialty

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

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

32 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified
33 journeymen or specialty electricians working on a job site shall
34 be:

35 (a) Not more than two noncertified individuals working on any
36 one job site for every specialty electrician or journeyman
37 electrician working as a specialty electrician, except that the
38 ratio requirements shall be one certified specialty electrician or

1 journeyman electrician working as a specialty electrician to no
2 more than four students enrolled in and working as part of an
3 appropriate specialty training program at public community or
4 technical colleges, nationally accredited technical or trade
5 schools, or technical or trade schools licensed by the work force
6 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10
7 RCW. In meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an
8 appropriate specialty training program at a trade school, a trade
9 school may receive input and advice from the electrical board; and

10 (b) Not more than one noncertified individual working on any
11 one job site for every certified journeyman electrician, except
12 that the ratio requirements shall be one certified journeyman
13 electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working
14 as part of an electrical construction program at public community
15 or technical colleges, (~~or not for profit~~) nationally accredited
16 (~~trade or~~) technical or trade schools, or technical or trade
17 schools licensed by the work force training and education
18 coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio
19 requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction
20 program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and
21 advice from the electrical board.

22 (5) An individual who has a current training certificate and
23 who has successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an
24 approved apprenticeship program (~~or~~), in an electrical
25 construction program, or in an appropriate specialty training
26 program at public community or technical colleges, (~~or not for~~
27 ~~profit~~) nationally accredited technical or trade schools, or
28 technical or trade schools licensed by the work force training and
29 education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW(~~or~~) may
30 work without direct on-site supervision during the last six months
31 of meeting the practical experience requirements of this chapter.

32 (~~(+5)~~) (6) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify
33 and attest to the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical
34 trainees on behalf of the electrical contractor.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.191 and 1997 c 309 s 3 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall

1 review the application and determine whether the applicant is
2 eligible to take an examination for the journeyman or specialty
3 certificate of competency.

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

6 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum
7 of four years employed full time, of which two years shall be in
8 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the
9 supervision of a journeyman electrician and not more than a total
10 of two years in all specialties under the supervision of a
11 journeyman electrician or an appropriate specialty electrician; or

12 (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved
13 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.

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

16 (i) Worked in that specialty of the electrical construction
17 trade, under the supervision of a journeyman electrician or an
18 appropriate specialty electrician, for a minimum of two years
19 employed full time; or

20 (ii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program
21 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the
22 electrical construction trade.

23 (c) Any applicant for a journeyman certificate who has
24 successfully completed a two-year program in the electrical
25 construction trade at public community or technical colleges, or
26 not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade schools
27 licensed by the work force training and education coordinating
28 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two years of
29 the technical or trade school program for up to two years of work
30 experience under a journeyman electrician. The applicant shall
31 obtain the additional two years of work experience required in
32 industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to the
33 beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school
34 program. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical
35 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may
36 be eligible to take the examination for the certificate of
37 competency.

38 (d) Any applicant for a specialty certificate who has

1 successfully completed an appropriate specialty training program
2 at public community or technical colleges, nationally accredited
3 technical or trade schools, or technical or trade schools licensed
4 by the work force training and education coordinating board under
5 chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two thousand hours of the
6 technical or trade school program for up to two thousand hours of
7 work experience under an electrician certified in the appropriate
8 specialty. The applicant shall obtain the additional work
9 experience required in the appropriate specialty prior to the
10 beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school
11 program.

12 (e) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

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

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