
SENATE BILL 5798

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley and Deccio

Read first time 02/02/2001. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to inspections of electrical installations; and
2 amending RCW 19.28.101.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.101 and 1996 c 241 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The director shall cause an inspector to inspect all wiring,
7 appliances, devices, and equipment to which this chapter applies.
8 Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed as providing any
9 authority for any subdivision of government to adopt by ordinance any
10 provisions contained or provided for in this chapter except those
11 pertaining to cities and towns pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3).

12 (2) Upon request, electrical inspections will be made by the
13 department within forty-eight hours, excluding holidays, Saturdays, and
14 Sundays. If, upon written request, the electrical inspector fails to
15 make an electrical inspection within twenty-four hours, the serving
16 utility may immediately connect electrical power to the installation if
17 the necessary electrical work permit is displayed: PROVIDED, That if
18 the request is for an electrical inspection that relates to a mobile
19 home installation, the applicant shall provide proof of a current

1 building permit issued by the local government agency authorized to
2 issue such permits as a prerequisite for inspection approval or
3 connection of electrical power to the mobile home.

4 (3) Whenever the installation of any wiring, device, appliance, or
5 equipment is not in accordance with this chapter, or is in such a
6 condition as to be dangerous to life or property, the person, firm,
7 partnership, corporation, or other entity owning, using, or operating
8 it shall be notified by the department and shall within fifteen days,
9 or such further reasonable time as may upon request be granted, make
10 such repairs and changes as are required to remove the danger to life
11 or property and to make it conform to this chapter. If the department,
12 or a city or town as authorized under RCW 19.28.010(3), has approved an
13 electrical plan, and an inspector subsequently determines that changes
14 to the approved plan are required to either remove the danger to life
15 or property or to conform to this chapter, or both, the department,
16 city, or town must pay the cost of any repairs and changes required,
17 provided that the same national electrical code was in effect at the
18 time of plan approval and inspection. The director, through the
19 inspector, is hereby empowered to disconnect or order the
20 discontinuance of electrical service to conductors or equipment that
21 are found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition and not in
22 accordance with this chapter. Upon making a disconnection the
23 inspector shall attach a notice stating that the conductors have been
24 found dangerous to life or property and are not in accordance with this
25 chapter. It is unlawful for any person to reconnect such defective
26 conductors or equipment without the approval of the department, and
27 until the conductors and equipment have been placed in a safe and
28 secure condition, and in a condition that complies with this chapter.

29 (4) The director, through the electrical inspector, has the right
30 during reasonable hours to enter into and upon any building or premises
31 in the discharge of his or her official duties for the purpose of
32 making any inspection or test of the installation of new construction
33 or altered electrical wiring, electrical devices, equipment, or
34 material contained in or on the buildings or premises. No electrical
35 wiring or equipment subject to this chapter may be concealed until it
36 has been approved by the inspector making the inspection. At the time
37 of the inspection, electrical wiring or equipment subject to this
38 chapter must be sufficiently accessible to permit the inspector to

1 employ any testing methods that will verify conformance with the
2 national electrical code and any other requirements of this chapter.

3 (5) Persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, or other entities
4 making electrical installations shall obtain inspection and approval
5 from an authorized representative of the department as required by this
6 chapter before requesting the electric utility to connect to the
7 installations. Electric utilities may connect to the installations if
8 approval is clearly indicated by certification of the electrical work
9 permit required to be affixed to each installation or by equivalent
10 means, except that increased or relocated services may be reconnected
11 immediately at the discretion of the utility before approval if an
12 electrical work permit is displayed. The permits shall be furnished
13 upon payment of the fee to the department.

14 (6) The director, subject to the recommendations and approval of
15 the board, shall set by rule a schedule of license and electrical work
16 permit fees that will cover the costs of administration and enforcement
17 of this chapter. The rules shall be adopted in accordance with the
18 administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. No fee may be charged
19 for plug-in mobile homes, recreational vehicles, or portable
20 appliances.

21 (7) Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the inspection of any
22 wiring, appliance, device, or equipment, or installations thereof, by
23 any utility or by any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
24 entity employed by a utility in connection with the installation,
25 repair, or maintenance of lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment owned
26 by or under the control of the utility. All work covered by the
27 national electric code not exempted by the 1981 edition of the national
28 electric code 90-2(B)(5) shall be inspected by the department.

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