
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2500

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By House Labor & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Reykdal, Tarleton, Sells, Ormsby, Fitzgibbon, Morrell, Roberts, and Riccelli)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring completion of an apprenticeship
2 program to receive a journeyman or residential specialty electrician
3 certificate of competency; amending RCW 19.28.161, 19.28.191, and
4 19.28.205; adding a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW; providing an
5 effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.161 and 2013 c 23 s 29 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade
10 without having a valid master journey level electrician certificate of
11 competency, journey level electrician certificate of competency, master
12 specialty electrician certificate of competency, or specialty
13 electrician certificate of competency issued by the department in
14 accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of competency
15 specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential, pump and
16 irrigation, limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance,
17 restricted nonresidential maintenance, and appliance repair. ~~((Until~~
18 ~~July 1, 2007, the department of labor and industries shall issue a~~
19 ~~written warning to any specialty pump and irrigation or domestic pump~~

1 ~~electrician not having a valid electrician certification. The warning~~
2 ~~will state that the individual must apply for an electrical training~~
3 ~~certificate or be qualified for and apply for electrician certification~~
4 ~~under the requirements in RCW 19.28.191(1)(g) within thirty calendar~~
5 ~~days of the warning. Only one warning will be issued to any~~
6 ~~individual. If the individual fails to comply with this section, the~~
7 ~~department shall issue a penalty as defined in RCW 19.28.271 to the~~
8 ~~individual.))~~

9 (2)(a) A person who is (~~(indentured)~~): (i) Registered in an
10 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the
11 electrical construction trade (~~(or who is)~~); (ii) learning the
12 electrical construction trade while working in a specialty other than
13 residential; or (iii) learning the electrical construction trade in a
14 program described in RCW 19.28.191(1) (f) or (g) for a journey level or
15 residential specialty certificate of competency may work in the
16 electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified master
17 journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty
18 electrician in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
19 in that electrician's specialty.

20 (b) All apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
21 construction trade shall obtain an electrical training certificate from
22 the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to learn
23 the electrical construction trade while under the direct supervision of
24 a master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master
25 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or
26 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. The
27 certificate may include a photograph of the holder. The holder of the
28 electrical training certificate shall renew the certificate biennially.
29 At the time of renewal, the holder shall provide the department with an
30 accurate list of the holder's employers in the electrical construction
31 industry for the previous biennial period and the number of hours
32 worked for each employer. The holder shall also provide proof of
33 (~~(sixteen)~~) forty-eight hours of: Approved classroom training covering
34 this chapter, the national electrical code, or electrical theory; or
35 equivalent classroom training taken as part of an approved
36 apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW or an approved
37 electrical training program under RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(h)~~) (f). (~~The~~
38 ~~number of hours of approved classroom training required for certificate~~

1 ~~renewal shall increase as follows: (a) Beginning on July 1, 2011, the~~
2 ~~holder of an electrical training certificate shall provide the~~
3 ~~department with proof of thirty two hours of approved classroom~~
4 ~~training; and (b) beginning on July 1, 2013, the holder of an~~
5 ~~electrical training certificate shall provide the department with proof~~
6 ~~of forty eight hours of approved classroom training. At the request of~~
7 ~~the chairs of the house of representatives commerce and labor committee~~
8 ~~and the senate labor, commerce and consumer protection committee, or~~
9 ~~their successor committees, the department of labor and industries~~
10 ~~shall provide information on the implementation of the new classroom~~
11 ~~training requirements for electrical trainees to both committees by~~
12 ~~December 1, 2012.)~~) A biennial fee shall be charged for the issuance
13 or renewal of the certificate. The department shall set the fee by
14 rule. The fee shall cover but not exceed the cost of administering and
15 enforcing the trainee certification and supervision requirements of
16 this chapter.

17 (c)(i) Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
18 construction trade shall have their electrical training certificates in
19 their possession at all times that they are performing electrical work.
20 They shall show their certificates to an authorized representative of
21 the department at the representative's request.

22 (ii) Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
23 construction trade must also have in their possession proof of
24 apprenticeship or training program registration. They shall show their
25 apprenticeship or training program registration documents to an
26 authorized representative of the department at the representative's
27 request. This subsection (2)(c)(ii) does not apply to individuals
28 working in a specialty other than residential.

29 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training
30 certificate under this chapter may work: (a) If that person is under
31 supervision, and (b) unless working in a specialty other than
32 residential, is: (i) Registered in an approved journey level or
33 residential specialty apprenticeship program, as appropriate; or (ii)
34 is learning the electrical construction trade in a program described in
35 RCW 19.28.191(1) (f) or (g) for a journey level or residential
36 specialty certificate of competency. Supervision shall consist of a
37 person being on the same job site and under the control of either a
38 certified master journey level electrician, journey level electrician,

1 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,
2 or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.
3 Either a certified master journey level electrician, journey level
4 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's
5 specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's
6 specialty shall be on the same job site as the noncertified individual
7 for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each working day unless
8 otherwise provided in this chapter.

9 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master
10 journey level electricians, journey level electricians, master
11 specialty electricians, or specialty electricians on any one job site
12 is as follows:

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

29 (b) When working as a journey level electrician, not more than one
30 noncertified individual for every certified master journey level
31 electrician or journey level electrician, except that the ratio
32 requirements shall be one certified master journey level electrician or
33 journey level electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and
34 working as part of an electrical construction program at public
35 community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
36 accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the workforce
37 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In

1 meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an electrical
2 construction program at a trade school, a trade school may receive
3 input and advice from the electrical board.

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 an electrical construction program at
7 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
8 accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the workforce
9 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may
10 work without direct on-site supervision during the last six months of
11 meeting the practical experience requirements of this chapter.

12 (5) For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)),
13 pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as
14 specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy (as specified in
15 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC
16 296-46B-920(2)(g)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined
17 by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential specialties, not
18 including appliance repair, as determined by the department in rule,
19 either a master journey level electrician, journey level electrician,
20 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,
21 or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty must
22 be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a minimum of
23 seventy-five percent of each working day. Other specialties must meet
24 the requirements specified in RCW 19.28.191(1)((~~g~~))(d)(ii). When the
25 ratio of certified electricians to noncertified individuals on a job
26 site is one certified electrician to three or four noncertified
27 individuals, the certified electrician must:

28 (a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals
29 and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an
30 electrical installation; and

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

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

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2013 c 23 s 30 are each amended to read
37 as follows:

1 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review
2 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take
3 an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey level
4 electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician
5 certificate of competency.

6 ~~(a) ((Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid
7 journey level electrician certificate of competency in effect for the
8 previous four years and a valid general administrator's certificate may
9 apply for a master journey level electrician certificate of competency
10 without examination.~~

11 ~~(b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid
12 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty
13 applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty
14 administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply
15 for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without
16 examination.~~

17 ~~(c) Before December 1, 2003, the following persons may obtain an
18 equipment repair specialty electrician certificate of competency
19 without examination:~~

20 ~~(i) A person who has successfully completed an apprenticeship
21 program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the machinist trade; and~~

22 ~~(ii) A person who provides evidence in a form prescribed by the
23 department affirming that: (A) He or she was employed as of April 1,
24 2003, by a factory authorized equipment dealer or service company; and
25 (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of four
26 thousand hours.~~

27 ~~(d)) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journey
28 level electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have
29 possessed a valid journey level electrician certificate of competency
30 for four years.~~

31 ~~((e)) (b) To be eligible to take the examination for a master
32 specialty electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must
33 have possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency,
34 in the specialty applied for, for two years.~~

35 ~~((f)) (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey
36 level certificate of competency, the applicant must have((÷~~

37 ~~(i)) successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved
38 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade in which~~

1 the applicant worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum
2 of eight thousand hours(~~(7-of-which)~~). Four thousand of the hours
3 shall be in industrial or commercial electrical installation under the
4 supervision of a master journey level electrician or journey level
5 electrician and not more than a total of four thousand hours in all
6 specialties under the supervision of a master journey level
7 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
8 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
9 working in that electrician's specialty. Specialty electricians with
10 less than a four thousand hour work experience requirement cannot
11 credit the time required to obtain that specialty towards qualifying to
12 become a journey level electrician(~~(7-or~~

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

15 ~~((g))~~ (d) To be eligible to take the examination for ~~((a))~~ the
16 following specialty electrician certificates of competency, the
17 applicant must have:

18 (i) Worked in the ~~((residential-(as-specified-in-WAC-296-46B-~~
19 ~~920(2)(a)),)~~ pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-
20 920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited
21 energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential
22 maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)), or other new
23 nonresidential specialties as determined by the department in rule
24 under the supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey
25 level electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
26 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
27 electrician's specialty for a minimum of four thousand hours;

28 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by the
29 department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined
30 by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty as determined
31 by the department in rule, the pump and irrigation specialty other than
32 as defined by ~~((g))~~ (d)(i) of this subsection or domestic pump
33 specialty as determined by the department in rule, or a specialty other
34 than the designated specialties in ~~((g))~~ (d)(i) of this subsection
35 for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set by rule by
36 the department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty is
37 limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for lighting branch
38 circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes for other

1 circuits, but excludes the replacement or repair of circuit breakers.
2 The initial period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision
3 of a master journey level electrician, journey level electrician,
4 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,
5 or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.
6 After this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination.
7 If the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised
8 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A
9 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance
10 repair specialty or in a specialty other than the designated
11 specialities in ~~((g))~~ (d)(i) of this subsection, however, until the
12 person has worked a minimum of two thousand hours in that specialty, or
13 longer if set by rule by the department;

14 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program
15 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the electrical
16 construction trade; or

17 (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and
18 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be
19 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same
20 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW
21 18.106.040(1)(c). After meeting the training requirements provided in
22 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon passing
23 the examination, meeting additional training requirements as may still
24 be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a domestic pump
25 specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying the applicable
26 fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate certificate. The
27 department may include an examination for specialty plumbing
28 certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) with the examination
29 required by this section. The department, by rule and in consultation
30 with the electrical board, may establish additional equivalent ways to
31 gain the experience requirements required by this subsection.
32 Individuals who are able to provide evidence to the department, prior
33 to January 1, 2007, that they have been employed as a pump installer in
34 the pump and irrigation or domestic pump business by an appropriately
35 licensed electrical contractor, registered general contractor defined
36 by chapter 18.27 RCW, or appropriate general specialty contractor
37 defined by chapter 18.27 RCW for not less than eight thousand hours in
38 the most recent six calendar years shall be issued the appropriate

1 certificate by the department upon receiving such documentation and
2 applicable fees. The department shall establish a single document for
3 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as
4 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification
5 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW
6 18.106.010(10)(c), showing that the individual has received both
7 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be
8 imposed.

9 ~~((h))~~ (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a
10 residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)) specialty
11 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have
12 successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program under chapter
13 49.04 RCW for the residential specialty electrical construction trade
14 in which the applicant worked under the supervision of a master journey
15 level electrician, journey level electrician, master residential
16 specialty electrician, or residential specialty electrician working for
17 a minimum of four thousand hours.

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

35 ~~((i))~~ (g) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of
36 competency who (~~, after January 1, 2000,~~) has successfully completed
37 a two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public
38 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally

1 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce training
2 and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may
3 substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for
4 one year of work experience under a master journey level electrician,
5 journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
6 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
7 electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in
8 the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United
9 States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards
10 qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty
11 electrician certificate of competency. An applicant for a residential
12 specialty certificate of competency may substitute work experience
13 under this section only as part of an apprenticeship program.

14 ~~((+j))~~ (h) The department must determine whether hours of training
15 and experience in the armed services or school program are in the
16 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for hours
17 of work experience. The department must use the following criteria for
18 evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical training programs
19 and work in the electrical construction trade:

20 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of three
21 thousand or more hours.

22 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of two
23 thousand four hundred hours of student/instructor contact time must be
24 technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope of work
25 of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time includes
26 lecture and in-school lab.

27 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that
28 accepts more than one thousand hours transferred from another school's
29 program.

30 (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than two
31 years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time hours
32 proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more than
33 fifty percent of the work experience required to attain certification.

34 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not be
35 credited towards qualification for journey level electrician unless the
36 training program is used to gain qualification for a four thousand hour
37 electrical specialty.

38 ~~((+k))~~ (i) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

1 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
2 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In
3 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.
4 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
5 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
6 the time and place for taking the examination.

7 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than one
8 year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test for a
9 certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after
10 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of
11 this section, "full-time basis" means two thousand hours.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.205 and 2013 c 23 s 32 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) An applicant for a journey level certificate of competency
15 under RCW 19.28.191(1)((~~f~~))(c) or a specialty electrician certificate
16 of competency under RCW 19.28.191(1)((~~g~~))(d) must demonstrate to the
17 satisfaction of the department completion of in-class education as
18 follows:

19 (a) Twenty-four hours of in-class education if two thousand hours
20 or more but less than four thousand hours of work are required for the
21 certificate;

22 (b) Forty-eight hours of in-class education if four thousand or
23 more but less than six thousand hours of work are required for the
24 certificate;

25 (c) Seventy-two hours of in-class education if six thousand or more
26 but less than eight thousand hours of work are required for the
27 certificate;

28 (d) Ninety-six hours of in-class education if eight thousand or
29 more hours of work are required for the certificate.

30 (2) For purposes of this section, "in-class education" means
31 approved classroom training covering this chapter, the national
32 electric code, or electrical theory; or equivalent classroom training
33 taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04
34 RCW or an approved electrical training program under RCW
35 19.28.191(1)((~~h~~))(f).

36 (3) Classroom training taken to qualify for trainee certificate

1 renewal under RCW 19.28.161 qualifies as in-class education under this
2 section.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 19.28 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 The department may permit an applicant who obtained experience and
6 training equivalent to a journey level or residential specialty
7 apprenticeship program to take the examination if the applicant
8 establishes that the applicant has the equivalent training and
9 experience and demonstrates good cause for not completing the required
10 minimum hours of work under standards applicable on the effective date
11 of this section.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 4 of this act expires July 1, 2021.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2019.

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