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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2500**

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**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 hours of: Approved classroom training covering this chapter,~~  
34 ~~the national electrical code, or electrical theory; or equivalent~~  
35 ~~classroom training taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program~~  
36 ~~under chapter 49.04 RCW or an approved electrical training program~~  
37 ~~under RCW 19.28.191(1)(h). The number of hours of approved classroom~~  
38 ~~training required for certificate renewal shall increase as follows:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 construction program at a trade school, a trade school may receive  
2 input and advice from the electrical board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take  
2 an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey level  
3 electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician  
4 certificate of competency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 ((+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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