
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6085

State of Washington **64th Legislature** **2016 Regular Session**
By Senate Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senator Baumgartner)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to office furniture installation,
2 reconfiguration, and maintenance; amending RCW 19.28.261 and
3 19.28.101; and reenacting and amending RCW 19.28.091.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.091 and 2003 c 399 s 301 and 2003 c 242 s 1
6 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 (1) No license under the provision of this chapter shall be
8 required from any utility or any person, firm, partnership,
9 corporation, or other entity employed by a utility because of work in
10 connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of lines,
11 wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by or under the control of a
12 utility and used for transmission or distribution of electricity from
13 the source of supply to the point of contact at the premises and/or
14 property to be supplied and service connections and meters and other
15 apparatus or appliances used in the measurement of the consumption of
16 electricity by the customer.

17 (2) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
18 required from any utility because of work in connection with the
19 installation, repair, or maintenance of the following:

20 (a) Lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment used in the lighting of
21 streets, alleys, ways, or public areas or squares;

1 (b) Lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by a commercial,
2 industrial, or public institution customer that are an integral part
3 of a transmission or distribution system, either overhead or
4 underground, providing service to such customer and located outside
5 the building or structure: PROVIDED, That a utility does not initiate
6 the sale of services to perform such work;

7 (c) Lines and wires, together with ancillary apparatus, and
8 equipment, owned by a customer that is an independent power producer
9 who has entered into an agreement for the sale of electricity to a
10 utility and that are used in transmitting electricity from an
11 electrical generating unit located on premises used by such customer
12 to the point of interconnection with the utility's system.

13 (3) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity
14 licensed under RCW 19.28.041 may enter into a contract with a utility
15 for the performance of work under subsection (2) of this section.

16 (4) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
17 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
18 entity because of the work of installing and repairing ignition or
19 lighting systems for motor vehicles.

20 (5) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
21 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
22 entity because of work in connection with the installation, repair,
23 or maintenance of wires and equipment, and installations thereof,
24 exempted in RCW 19.28.010.

25 (6) The department may by rule exempt from licensing requirements
26 under this chapter work performed on premanufactured electric power
27 generation equipment assemblies and control gear involving the
28 testing, repair, modification, maintenance, or installation of
29 components internal to the power generation equipment, the control
30 gear, or the transfer switch.

31 (7) This chapter does not require an electrical contractor
32 license if: (a) An appropriately certified electrician or a properly
33 supervised certified electrical trainee is performing the
34 installation, repair, or maintenance of wires and equipment for a
35 nonprofit corporation that holds a current tax exempt status as
36 provided under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) or a nonprofit religious
37 organization; (b) the certified electrician or certified electrical
38 trainee is not compensated for the electrical work; and (c) the value
39 of the electrical work does not exceed thirty thousand dollars.

1 (8) An entity that currently holds a valid specialty or general
2 plumbing contractor's registration under chapter 18.27 RCW may employ
3 a certified plumber, a certified residential plumber, or a plumber
4 trainee meeting the requirements of chapter 18.106 RCW to perform
5 electrical work that is incidentally, directly, and immediately
6 appropriate to the like-in-kind replacement of a household appliance
7 or other small household utilization equipment that requires limited
8 electric power and limited waste and/or water connections. A plumber
9 trainee must be supervised by a certified plumber or a certified
10 residential plumber while performing electrical work. The electrical
11 work is subject to the permitting and inspection requirements of this
12 chapter.

13 (9) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
14 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
15 entity because of work in connection with the installation,
16 reconfiguration, or maintenance of modular electrical systems that
17 are UL-listed for use in commercial furniture. This subsection does
18 not apply to line voltage connections to the building power source
19 necessary as part of the office furniture installation.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.261 and 2013 c 23 s 37 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (1) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed
23 to require that a person obtain a license or a certified electrician
24 in order to do electrical work at his or her residence or farm or
25 place of business or on other property owned by him or her unless the
26 electrical work is on the construction of a new building intended for
27 rent, sale, or lease. However, if the construction is of a new
28 residential building with up to four units intended for rent, sale,
29 or lease, the owner may receive an exemption from the requirement to
30 obtain a license or use a certified electrician if he or she provides
31 a signed affidavit to the department stating that he or she will be
32 performing the work and will occupy one of the units as his or her
33 principal residence. The owner shall apply to the department for this
34 exemption and may only receive an exemption once every twenty-four
35 months. It is intended that the owner receiving this exemption shall
36 occupy the unit as his or her principal residence for twenty-four
37 months after completion of the units.

38 (2) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be intended
39 to derogate from or dispense with the requirements of any valid

1 electrical code enacted by a city or town pursuant to RCW
2 19.28.010(3), except that no code shall require the holder of a
3 certificate of competency to demonstrate any additional proof of
4 competency or obtain any other license or pay any fee in order to
5 engage in the electrical construction trade.

6 (3) RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not apply to common
7 carriers subject to Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act, nor to
8 their officers and employees.

9 (4) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be deemed to
10 apply to the installation or maintenance of telephone, telegraph,
11 radio, or television wires and equipment; nor to any electrical
12 utility or its employees in the installation, repair, and maintenance
13 of electrical wiring, circuits, and equipment by or for the utility,
14 or comprising a part of its plants, lines, or systems.

15 (5) The licensing provisions of RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271
16 shall not apply to:

17 (a) Persons making electrical installations on their own property
18 or to regularly employed employees working on the premises of their
19 employer, unless the electrical work is on the construction of a new
20 building intended for rent, sale, or lease;

21 (b) Employees of an employer while the employer is performing
22 utility type work of the nature described in RCW 19.28.091 so long as
23 such employees have registered in the state of Washington with or
24 graduated from a state-approved outside lineworker apprenticeship
25 course that is recognized by the department and that qualifies a
26 person to perform such work;

27 (c) Any work exempted under RCW 19.28.091(6); ~~((and))~~

28 (d) Certified plumbers, certified residential plumbers, or
29 plumber trainees meeting the requirements of chapter 18.106 RCW and
30 performing exempt work under RCW 19.28.091(8); and

31 (e) Any work exempted under RCW 19.28.091(9).

32 (6) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed
33 to restrict the right of any householder to assist or receive
34 assistance from a friend, neighbor, relative, or other person when
35 none of the individuals doing the electrical installation hold
36 themselves out as engaged in the trade or business of electrical
37 installations.

38 (7) Nothing precludes any person who is exempt from the licensing
39 requirements of this chapter under this section from obtaining a

1 journey level or specialty certificate of competency if they
2 otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.101 and 2008 c 181 s 201 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The director shall cause an inspector to inspect all wiring,
6 appliances, devices, and equipment to which this chapter applies
7 except for basic electrical work as defined in this chapter. The
8 department may not require an electrical work permit for class A
9 basic electrical work unless deficiencies in the installation or
10 repair require inspection. The department may inspect class B basic
11 electrical work on a random basis as specified by the department in
12 rule. Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed as providing
13 any authority for any subdivision of government to adopt by ordinance
14 any provisions contained or provided for in this chapter except those
15 pertaining to cities and towns pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3).

16 (2) Upon request, electrical inspections will be made by the
17 department within forty-eight hours, excluding holidays, Saturdays,
18 and Sundays. If, upon written request, the electrical inspector fails
19 to make an electrical inspection within twenty-four hours, the
20 serving utility may immediately connect electrical power to the
21 installation if the necessary electrical work permit is displayed:
22 PROVIDED, That if the request is for an electrical inspection that
23 relates to a mobile home installation, the applicant shall provide
24 proof of a current building permit issued by the local government
25 agency authorized to issue such permits as a prerequisite for
26 inspection approval or connection of electrical power to the mobile
27 home.

28 (3) Whenever the installation of any wiring, device, appliance,
29 or equipment is not in accordance with this chapter, or is in such a
30 condition as to be dangerous to life or property, the person, firm,
31 partnership, corporation, or other entity owning, using, or operating
32 it shall be notified by the department and shall within fifteen days,
33 or such further reasonable time as may upon request be granted, make
34 such repairs and changes as are required to remove the danger to life
35 or property and to make it conform to this chapter. The director,
36 through the inspector, is hereby empowered to disconnect or order the
37 discontinuance of electrical service to conductors or equipment that
38 are found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition and not in
39 accordance with this chapter. Upon making a disconnection the

1 inspector shall attach a notice stating that the conductors have been
2 found dangerous to life or property and are not in accordance with
3 this chapter. It is unlawful for any person to reconnect such
4 defective conductors or equipment without the approval of the
5 department, and until the conductors and equipment have been placed
6 in a safe and secure condition, and in a condition that complies with
7 this chapter.

8 (4) The director, through the electrical inspector, has the right
9 during reasonable hours to enter into and upon any building or
10 premises in the discharge of his or her official duties for the
11 purpose of making any inspection or test of the installation of new
12 construction or altered electrical wiring, electrical devices,
13 equipment, or material contained in or on the buildings or premises.
14 No electrical wiring or equipment subject to this chapter may be
15 concealed until it has been approved by the inspector making the
16 inspection. At the time of the inspection, electrical wiring or
17 equipment subject to this chapter must be sufficiently accessible to
18 permit the inspector to employ any testing methods that will verify
19 conformance with the national electrical code and any other
20 requirements of this chapter.

21 (5) Persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, or other entities
22 making electrical installations shall obtain inspection and approval
23 from an authorized representative of the department as required by
24 this chapter before requesting the electric utility to connect to the
25 installations. Electric utilities may connect to the installations if
26 approval is clearly indicated by certification of the electrical work
27 permit required to be affixed to each installation or by equivalent
28 means, except that increased or relocated services may be reconnected
29 immediately at the discretion of the utility before approval if an
30 electrical work permit is displayed. The permits shall be furnished
31 upon payment of the fee to the department.

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

39 (7) Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the inspection of any
40 wiring, appliance, device, or equipment, or installations thereof, by

1 any utility or by any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or
2 other entity employed by a utility in connection with the
3 installation, repair, or maintenance of lines, wires, apparatus, or
4 equipment owned by or under the control of the utility. All work
5 covered by the national electric code not exempted by the 1981
6 edition of the national electric code 90-2(B)(5) shall be inspected
7 by the department.

8 (8) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12),
9 the governor may waive or suspend the collection of fees under this
10 section or any portion of this section or under any administrative
11 rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or
12 local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection
13 of the civilian population.

14 (9) Nothing in this chapter authorizes the inspection of any
15 installation exempted under RCW 19.28.091(9).

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