
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5282

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Senators Braun, Baumgartner, and Warnick)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to residential security system installations; and
2 amending RCW 19.28.006 and 19.28.261.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.006 and 2013 c 23 s 27 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this subchapter.

7 (1) "Administrator" means a person designated by an electrical
8 contractor to supervise electrical work and electricians in
9 accordance with the rules adopted under this chapter.

10 (2) "Basic electrical work" means the work classified in (a) and
11 (b) of this subsection as class A and class B basic electrical work:

12 (a) "Class A basic electrical work" means:

13 (i) The like-in-kind replacement of a: Contactor, relay, timer,
14 starter, circuit board, or similar control component; household
15 appliance; circuit breaker; fuse; residential luminaire; lamp; snap
16 switch; dimmer; receptacle outlet; thermostat; heating element;
17 luminaire ballast with an exact same ballast; ten horsepower or
18 smaller motor; or wiring, appliances, devices, or equipment as
19 specified by rule.

20 (ii) Work limited to installing in a one or two family dwelling
21 no more than one power supply cable six feet or less in length from a

1 listed class two transformer rated no greater than twenty-four volts
2 in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of one
3 main control panel for a low voltage security, intrusion, or similar
4 alarm system, excluding systems that monitor required fire or smoke
5 detection devices.

6 (b) "Class B basic electrical work" means work other than class A
7 basic electrical work that requires minimal electrical circuit
8 modifications and has limited exposure hazards. Class B basic
9 electrical work includes the following:

10 (i) Extension of not more than one branch electrical circuit
11 limited to one hundred twenty volts and twenty amps each where:

12 (A) No cover inspection is necessary; and

13 (B) The extension does not supply more than two outlets;

14 (ii) Like-in-kind replacement of a single luminaire not exceeding
15 two hundred seventy-seven volts and twenty amps;

16 (iii) Like-in-kind replacement of a motor larger than ten
17 horsepower;

18 (iv) The following low voltage systems:

19 (A) Repair and replacement of devices not exceeding one hundred
20 volt-amperes in Class 2, Class 3, or power limited low voltage
21 systems in one and two-family dwellings;

22 (B) Repair and replacement of the following devices not exceeding
23 one hundred volt-amperes in Class 2, Class 3, or power limited low
24 voltage systems in other buildings, provided the equipment is not for
25 fire alarm or nurse call systems and is not located in an area
26 classified as hazardous by the national electrical code; or

27 (v) Wiring, appliances, devices, or equipment as specified by
28 rule.

29 (3) "Board" means the electrical board under RCW 19.28.311.

30 (4) "Chapter" or "subchapter" means the subchapter, if no chapter
31 number is referenced.

32 (5) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

33 (6) "Director" means the director of the department or the
34 director's designee.

35 (7) "Electrical construction trade" includes, but is not limited
36 to, installing or maintaining electrical wires and equipment that are
37 used for light, heat, or power and installing and maintaining remote
38 control, signaling, power limited, or communication circuits or
39 systems.

1 (8) "Electrical contractor" means a person, firm, partnership,
2 corporation, or other entity that offers to undertake, undertakes,
3 submits a bid for, or does the work of installing or maintaining
4 wires or equipment that convey electrical current.

5 (9) "Equipment" means any equipment or apparatus that directly
6 uses, conducts, insulates, or is operated by electricity but does not
7 mean: Plug-in appliances; or plug-in equipment as determined by the
8 department by rule.

9 (10) "Industrial control panel" means a factory-wired or user-
10 wired assembly of industrial control equipment such as motor
11 controllers, switches, relays, power supplies, computers, cathode ray
12 tubes, transducers, and auxiliary devices. The panel may include
13 disconnect means and motor branch circuit protective devices.

14 (11) "Journey level electrician" means a person who has been
15 issued a journey level electrician certificate of competency by the
16 department.

17 (12) "Like-in-kind" means having similar characteristics such as
18 voltage requirements, current draw, and function, and being in the
19 same location.

20 (13) "Master electrician" means either a master journey level
21 electrician or master specialty electrician.

22 (14) "Master journey level electrician" means a person who has
23 been issued a master journey level electrician certificate of
24 competency by the department and who may be designated by an
25 electrical contractor to supervise electrical work and electricians
26 in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter.

27 (15) "Master specialty electrician" means a person who has been
28 issued a specialty electrician certificate of competency by the
29 department and who may be designated by an electrical contractor to
30 supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance with rules
31 adopted under this chapter.

32 (16) "Specialty electrician" means a person who has been issued a
33 specialty electrician certificate of competency by the department.

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

36 (1) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed
37 to require that a person obtain a license or a certified electrician
38 in order to do electrical work at his or her residence or farm or
39 place of business or on other property owned by him or her unless the

1 electrical work is on the construction of a new building intended for
2 rent, sale, or lease. However, if the construction is of a new
3 residential building with up to four units intended for rent, sale,
4 or lease, the owner may receive an exemption from the requirement to
5 obtain a license or use a certified electrician if he or she provides
6 a signed affidavit to the department stating that he or she will be
7 performing the work and will occupy one of the units as his or her
8 principal residence. The owner shall apply to the department for this
9 exemption and may only receive an exemption once every twenty-four
10 months. It is intended that the owner receiving this exemption shall
11 occupy the unit as his or her principal residence for twenty-four
12 months after completion of the units.

13 (2) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be intended
14 to derogate from or dispense with the requirements of any valid
15 electrical code enacted by a city or town pursuant to RCW
16 19.28.010(3), except that no code shall require the holder of a
17 certificate of competency to demonstrate any additional proof of
18 competency or obtain any other license or pay any fee in order to
19 engage in the electrical construction trade.

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

23 (4) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be deemed to
24 apply to the installation or maintenance of telephone, telegraph,
25 radio, or television wires and equipment; nor to any electrical
26 utility or its employees in the installation, repair, and maintenance
27 of electrical wiring, circuits, and equipment by or for the utility,
28 or comprising a part of its plants, lines, or systems.

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

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

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

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

2 (d) Certified plumbers, certified residential plumbers, or
3 plumber trainees meeting the requirements of chapter 18.106 RCW and
4 performing exempt work under RCW 19.28.091(8).

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

11 (7) Nothing precludes any person who is exempt from the licensing
12 requirements of this chapter under this section from obtaining a
13 journey level or specialty certificate of competency if they
14 otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter.

15 (8) RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not apply to persons
16 performing work limited to installing in a one or two family dwelling
17 no more than one power supply cable six feet or less in length from a
18 listed class two transformer rated no greater than twenty-four volts
19 in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of one
20 main control panel for a low voltage security, intrusion, or similar
21 alarm system, excluding systems that monitor required fire or smoke
22 detection devices.

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