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HOUSE BILL 1594

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Chandler and Chapman

Read first time 01/24/19. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying the exemption for wiring and  
2 equipment associated with telecommunication installations; and  
3 amending RCW 19.28.010.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.010 and 2018 c 240 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) All wires and equipment, and installations thereof, that  
8 convey electric current and installations of equipment to be operated  
9 by electric current, in, on, or about buildings or structures, except  
10 for telephone, telegraph, radio, and television wires and equipment,  
11 and television antenna installations, signal strength amplifiers, and  
12 coaxial installations pertaining thereto shall be in strict  
13 conformity with this chapter, the statutes of the state of  
14 Washington, and the rules issued by the department, and shall be in  
15 conformity with approved methods of construction for safety to life  
16 and property. The following are exempt from the requirements of this  
17 chapter: All wires and equipment that fall within section 90.2(b)(5)  
18 of the National Electrical Code, 1981 edition (~~(, are exempt from the~~  
19 ~~requirements of this chapter)~~); all wires and equipment within the  
20 communication worker safety zone or power supply space, as defined in  
21 the National Electrical Safety Code, on poles supporting electric

1 utility transmission or distribution lines or wires; and electric  
2 utility-owned equipment between a meter base and meter. The  
3 regulations and articles in the National Electrical Code, the  
4 National Electrical Safety Code, and other installation and safety  
5 regulations approved by the national fire protection association, as  
6 modified or supplemented by rules issued by the department in  
7 furtherance of safety to life and property under authority hereby  
8 granted, shall be prima facie evidence of the approved methods of  
9 construction. All materials, devices, appliances, and equipment used  
10 in such installations shall be of a type that conforms to applicable  
11 standards or be indicated as acceptable by the established standards  
12 of any electrical product testing laboratory which is accredited by  
13 the department. Industrial control panels, utilization equipment, and  
14 their components do not need to be listed, labeled, or otherwise  
15 indicated as acceptable by an accredited electrical product testing  
16 laboratory unless specifically required by the National Electrical  
17 Code, 1993 edition.

18 (2) Residential buildings or structures moved into or within a  
19 county, city, or town are not required to comply with all of the  
20 requirements of this chapter, if the original occupancy  
21 classification of the building or structure is not changed as a  
22 result of the move. This subsection shall not apply to residential  
23 buildings or structures that are substantially remodeled or  
24 rehabilitated.

25 (3) This chapter shall not limit the authority or power of any  
26 city or town to enact and enforce under authority given by law, any  
27 ordinance, rule, or regulation requiring an equal, higher, or better  
28 standard of construction and an equal, higher, or better standard of  
29 materials, devices, appliances, and equipment than that required by  
30 this chapter. A city or town shall require that its electrical  
31 inspectors meet the qualifications provided for state electrical  
32 inspectors in accordance with RCW 19.28.321. In a city or town having  
33 an equal, higher, or better standard the installations, materials,  
34 devices, appliances, and equipment shall be in accordance with the  
35 ordinance, rule, or regulation of the city or town.

36 (4) Incorporated cities and towns where electrical inspections  
37 are required by local ordinances may enforce the provisions of RCW  
38 19.28.041(1), 19.28.161, 19.28.271(1), 19.28.420(1), and applicable  
39 licensing and certification rules within their respective  
40 jurisdictions. Nothing in this subsection diminishes the authority of

1 the department to enforce the provisions of RCW 19.28.041(1),  
2 19.28.161, 19.28.271(1), 19.28.420(1), and applicable licensing and  
3 certification rules within any city or town.

4 (5) Electrical equipment associated with spas, hot tubs, swimming  
5 pools, and hydromassage bathtubs shall not be offered for sale or  
6 exchange unless the electrical equipment is certified as being in  
7 compliance with the applicable product safety standard by bearing the  
8 certification mark of an approved electrical products testing  
9 laboratory.

10 (6) Nothing in this chapter may be construed as permitting the  
11 connection of any conductor of any electric circuit with a pipe that  
12 is connected with or designed to be connected with a waterworks  
13 piping system, without the consent of the person or persons legally  
14 responsible for the operation and maintenance of the waterworks  
15 piping system.

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