
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2608

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Hargrove and Heavey)

Read first time 02/07/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to certificates of competency for registered
2 contractors; adding new sections to chapter 18.27 RCW; creating a new
3 section; prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.27 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) By July 1, 1993, the department shall develop and implement a
8 voluntary certificate of competency program for general and specialty
9 contractors registered under this chapter.

10 (2) The department shall prepare appropriate examinations for
11 general and specialty contractors' certificates of competency to be
12 administered to eligible applicants. The examination must be
13 constructed to determine:

1 (a) Whether the applicant possesses varied general knowledge of the
2 technical information and practical procedures identified with the
3 construction trade; and

4 (b) Whether the applicant is familiar with the applicable building
5 codes, statutory requirements, and administrative rules pertaining to
6 the construction trade.

7 (3)(a) An applicant for a contractor certificate of competency
8 shall submit the required fee and an application to take the competency
9 examination on the form and in the manner prescribed by the department.
10 The applicant must be a registered contractor, and, except as otherwise
11 provided in (c) of this subsection, must provide written evidence that
12 he or she has completed a course of study in the construction trade for
13 general or specialty contractors, as appropriate, at a school or
14 training program approved by the department. If the director
15 determines that the applicant is eligible to take the examination, the
16 director shall notify the applicant of the time and place of the
17 examination. The director shall establish reasonable rules for the
18 conduct of examinations.

19 (b) The department shall certify the results of the examination and
20 shall notify the applicant in writing whether he or she has passed or
21 failed. An applicant who has failed the examination may retake the
22 examination, on the terms and after a period of time determined by the
23 department by rule. The number of times that an applicant may take the
24 examination may not be limited.

25 (c) An applicant for the competency examination is not required to
26 provide evidence of training if, as of the effective date of this act,
27 the applicant is a registered contractor engaged in a bona fide
28 contracting business with at least two years of experience.

29 (4) The department shall issue a certificate of competency to an
30 applicant who has passed the examination and has paid all appropriate

1 fees. The certificate must bear the date of issuance, and must expire
2 on the birthdate of the holder immediately following the date of
3 issuance. The certificate is renewable every other year, upon
4 application and payment of a fee, on or before the holder's birthdate.
5 A doubled fee shall be charged for failure to renew the certificate by
6 the renewal date. A holder shall retake the examination and pay the
7 examination fee if he or she does not renew the certificate within
8 ninety days of the renewal date in order to renew the certificate.

9 (5) The department shall establish certification fees that cover
10 the full cost of processing applications for certification, developing
11 and administering the examination, and issuing and renewing
12 certification.

13 (6) The holder of a certificate of competency may verbally
14 represent that he or she holds a certificate of competency and may
15 include the information that he or she holds the certificate in
16 documents, including but not limited to advertising, contracts,
17 business cards, and signs. A making of a claim by a contractor that he
18 or she holds a certificate of competency when such a certificate has
19 not been lawfully issued to the contractor or is not in force under
20 this chapter is an infraction and the contractor is subject to having
21 his or her registration suspended for up to two years.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.27 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 (1) There is created a state advisory committee of construction
25 contractors, comprised of seven members appointed by the director. One
26 member shall be from each of the following construction
27 classifications: (a) Commercial/retail construction; (b)
28 highway/industrial construction; (c) municipal/utility construction;
29 (d) marine construction; (e) residential single-family construction;

1 and (f) residential multifamily construction. The seventh member shall
2 be a representative of the general public who is familiar with the
3 business and trade of construction.

4 (2) The initial terms of the members of the advisory committee
5 shall be as follows: For the members representing commercial/retail
6 and marine construction, one year; for the members representing
7 highway/industrial, residential single-family construction, and the
8 general public, two years; and for the members representing
9 municipal/utility and residential multifamily construction, three
10 years. The regular term of the members of the advisory committee shall
11 be three years. The director shall appoint or reappoint committee
12 members to fill vacancies created by the completion of terms. In the
13 case of a vacancy on the committee for any other reason, the director
14 shall appoint a successor from the same construction classification to
15 serve out the term of the person whose position has become vacant.

16 (3) It shall be the purpose and function of the committee to advise
17 the department on all matters pertaining to the development,
18 implementation, and enforcement of the voluntary certificate of
19 competency program for general and specialty contractors registered
20 under this chapter.

21 (4) Each member of the committee shall be reimbursed for travel
22 expenses and paid special per diem rates in accordance with RCW
23 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 for each day such member is engaged in bona
24 fide business of the advisory committee.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall take effect January 1,
26 1993.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The director of the department of labor
28 and industries may take such steps as are necessary to ensure that this

1 act is implemented on its effective date.