
SENATE BILL 5928

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator Morton

Read first time 02/15/95. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to electrical contractors; amending RCW 19.28.120;
2 and adding a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 19.28 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The board shall establish a classification of specialty low-voltage
7 electrical contractors' license for contractors of low-voltage
8 electrical projects of twenty-four volts or less. The bond required
9 under RCW 19.28.120(3) shall not be required for applicants for the
10 specialty license established under this section.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.120 and 1992 c 217 s 2 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation,
14 or other entity to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of
15 installing or maintaining wires or equipment to convey electric
16 current, or installing or maintaining equipment to be operated by
17 electric current as it pertains to the electrical industry, without
18 having an unrevoked, unsuspended, and unexpired electrical contractor

1 license, issued by the department in accordance with this chapter. All
2 electrical contractor licenses expire twenty-four calendar months
3 following the day of their issue. The department may issue an
4 electrical contractors license for a period of less than twenty-four
5 months only for the purpose of equalizing the number of electrical
6 contractor licenses which expire each month. Application for an
7 electrical contractor license shall be made in writing to the
8 department, accompanied by the required fee. The application shall
9 state:

10 (a) The name and address of the applicant; in case of firms or
11 partnerships, the names of the individuals composing the firm or
12 partnership; in case of corporations, the names of the managing
13 officials thereof;

14 (b) The location of the place of business of the applicant and the
15 name under which the business is conducted;

16 (c) Employer social security number;

17 (d) As applicable: (i) The industrial insurance account number
18 covering employees domiciled in Washington; and (ii) evidence of
19 workers' compensation coverage in the applicant's state of domicile for
20 the applicant's employees working in Washington who are not domiciled
21 in Washington;

22 (e) Employment security department number;

23 (f) State excise tax registration number;

24 (g) Unified business identifier (UBI) account number may be
25 substituted for the information required by (d), (e), and (f) of this
26 subsection; and

27 (h) Whether a general or specialty electrical contractor license is
28 sought and, if the latter, the type of specialty. Electrical
29 contractor specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential,
30 domestic appliances, pump and irrigation, limited energy system, signs,
31 nonresidential maintenance, and a combination specialty. A general
32 electrical contractor license shall grant to the holder the right to
33 engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of installing or
34 maintaining wires or equipment to carry electric current, and
35 installing or maintaining equipment, or installing or maintaining
36 material to fasten or insulate such wires or equipment to be operated
37 by electric current, in the state of Washington. A specialty
38 electrical contractor license shall grant to the holder a limited right
39 to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of installing or

1 maintaining wires or equipment to carry electrical current, and
2 installing or maintaining equipment; or installing or maintaining
3 material to fasten or insulate such wires or equipment to be operated
4 by electric current in the state of Washington as expressly allowed by
5 the license.

6 (2) The department may verify the workers' compensation coverage
7 information provided by the applicant under subsection (1)(d) of this
8 section, including but not limited to information regarding the
9 coverage of an individual employee of the applicant. If coverage is
10 provided under the laws of another state, the department may notify the
11 other state that the applicant is employing employees in Washington.

12 (3) Except for applications for specialty low-voltage electrical
13 contractors' licenses established under section 1 of this act, the
14 application for a contractor license shall be accompanied by a bond in
15 the sum of four thousand dollars with the state of Washington named as
16 obligee in the bond, with good and sufficient surety, to be approved by
17 the department. The bond shall at all times be kept in full force and
18 effect, and any cancellation or revocation thereof, or withdrawal of
19 the surety therefrom, suspends the license issued to the principal
20 until a new bond has been filed and approved as provided in this
21 section. Upon approval of a bond, the department shall on the next
22 business day deposit the fee accompanying the application in the
23 electrical license fund and shall file the bond in the office. The
24 department shall upon request furnish to any person, firm, partnership,
25 corporation, or other entity a certified copy of the bond upon the
26 payment of a fee that the department shall set by rule. The fee shall
27 cover but not exceed the cost of furnishing the certified copy. The
28 bond shall be conditioned that in any installation or maintenance of
29 wires or equipment to convey electrical current, and equipment to be
30 operated by electrical current, the principal will comply with the
31 provisions of this chapter and with any electrical ordinance, building
32 code, or regulation of a city or town adopted pursuant to RCW
33 19.28.010(~~(+2)~~) (3) that is in effect at the time of entering into a
34 contract. The bond shall be conditioned further that the principal
35 will pay for all labor, including employee benefits, and material
36 furnished or used upon the work, taxes and contributions to the state
37 of Washington, and all damages that may be sustained by any person,
38 firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity due to a failure of the
39 principal to make the installation or maintenance in accordance with

1 this chapter or any applicable ordinance, building code, or regulation
2 of a city or town adopted pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(~~(+2)~~) (3). In
3 lieu of the surety bond required by this section the license applicant
4 may file with the department a cash deposit or other negotiable
5 security acceptable to the department. If the license applicant has
6 filed a cash deposit, the department shall deposit the funds in a
7 special trust savings account in a commercial bank, mutual savings
8 bank, or savings and loan association and shall pay annually to the
9 depositor the interest derived from the account.

10 (4) The department shall issue general or specialty electrical
11 contractor licenses to applicants meeting all of the requirements of
12 this chapter. The provisions of this chapter relating to the licensing
13 of any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity
14 including the requirement of a bond with the state of Washington named
15 as obligee therein and the collection of a fee therefor, are exclusive,
16 and no political subdivision of the state of Washington may require or
17 issue any licenses or bonds or charge any fee for the same or a similar
18 purpose. No person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity
19 holding more than one specialty contractor license under this chapter
20 may be required to pay an annual fee for more than one such license or
21 to post more than one four thousand dollar bond, equivalent cash
22 deposit, or other negotiable security.

23 (5) To obtain a general or specialty electrical contractor license
24 the applicant must designate an individual who currently possesses an
25 administrator's certificate as a general electrical contractor
26 administrator or as a specialty electrical contractor administrator in
27 the specialty for which application has been made. Administrator
28 certificate specialties include but are not limited to: Residential,
29 domestic, appliance, pump and irrigation, limited energy system, signs,
30 nonresidential maintenance, and combination specialty. To obtain an
31 administrator's certificate an individual must pass an examination as
32 set forth in RCW 19.28.123 unless the applicant was a licensed
33 electrical contractor at any time during 1974. Applicants who were
34 electrical contractors licensed by the state of Washington at any time
35 during 1974 are entitled to receive a general electrical contractor
36 administrator's certificate without examination if the applicants apply
37 prior to January 1, 1984. The board of electrical examiners shall
38 certify to the department the names of all persons who are entitled to

1 either a general or specialty electrical contractor administrator's
2 certificate.

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