

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1361**

55th Legislature  
1997 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 19, 1997  
Yeas 89 Nays 0

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**Speaker of the  
House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 10, 1997  
Yeas 46 Nays 0

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President of the Senate**

Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Timothy A. Martin, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1361** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1361**

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Passed Legislature - 1997 Regular Session

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Clements, Skinner and Honeyford)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1       AN ACT Relating to regulation of electricians and electrical  
2 installations; and amending RCW 19.28.510, 19.28.520, 19.28.530, and  
3 19.28.070.

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

5       **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.510 and 1996 c 241 s 6 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7       (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade  
8 without having a current journeyman electrician certificate of  
9 competency or a current specialty electrician certificate of competency  
10 issued by the department in accordance with this chapter. Electrician  
11 certificate of competency specialties include, but are not limited to:  
12 Residential, domestic appliances, pump and irrigation, limited energy  
13 system, signs, and nonresidential maintenance.

14       (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program  
15 approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade  
16 or who is learning the electrical construction trade may work in the  
17 electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified journeyman  
18 electrician or a certified specialty electrician in that electrician's  
19 specialty. All apprentices and individuals learning the electrical

1 construction trade shall obtain an electrical training certificate from  
2 the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to learn  
3 the electrical construction trade while under the direct supervision of  
4 a journeyman electrician or a specialty electrician working in his or  
5 her specialty. The holder of the electrical training certificate shall  
6 renew the certificate annually. At the time of renewal, the holder  
7 shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's  
8 employers in the electrical construction industry for the previous year  
9 and the number of hours worked for each employer. An annual fee shall  
10 be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The  
11 department shall set the fee by rule. The fee shall cover but not  
12 exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee  
13 certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.  
14 Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade  
15 shall have their electrical training certificates in their possession  
16 at all times that they are performing electrical work. They shall show  
17 their certificates to an authorized representative of the department at  
18 the representative's request.

19 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training  
20 certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under  
21 supervision. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same  
22 job site and under the control of either a journeyman electrician or an  
23 appropriate specialty electrician who has an applicable certificate of  
24 competency issued under this chapter. Either a journeyman electrician  
25 or an appropriate specialty electrician shall be on the same job site  
26 as the noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of  
27 each working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter. ((The  
28 ratio of noncertified individuals to certified journeymen or specialty  
29 electricians working on a job site shall be:

30 (a) ~~From September 1, 1979, through December 31, 1982, not more~~  
31 ~~than three noncertified electricians working on any one job site for~~  
32 ~~every certified journeyman or specialty electrician;~~

33 (b) ~~Effective January 1, 1983,~~) (4) The ratio of noncertified  
34 individuals to certified journeymen or specialty electricians working  
35 on a job site shall be:

36 (a) Not more than two noncertified individuals working on any one  
37 job site for every specialty electrician or journeyman electrician  
38 working as a specialty electrician((÷

39 (c) ~~Effective January 1, 1983,~~) ); and

1        (b) Not more than one noncertified individual working on any one  
2 job site for every certified journeyman electrician(~~(-)~~), except that  
3 the ratio requirements (~~(do not apply to a trade school program in the~~  
4 electrical construction trade established during 1946)) shall be one  
5 certified journeyman electrician to no more than four students enrolled  
6 in and working as part of an electrical construction program at public  
7 community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally  
8 accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the work force  
9 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In  
10 meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an electrical  
11 construction program at a trade school, a trade school may receive  
12 input and advice from the electrical board.

13        An individual who has a current training certificate and who has  
14 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved  
15 apprenticeship program or in ~~((a technical school))~~ an electrical  
16 construction program ((in the electrical construction trade in a school  
17 approved)) at public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit  
18 nationally accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the  
19 ((commission for vocational education)) work force training and  
20 education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may work without  
21 direct on-site supervision during the last six months of meeting the  
22 practical experience requirements of this chapter.

23        ~~((+4))~~ (5) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and  
24 attest to the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on  
25 behalf of the electrical contractor.

26        **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.520 and 1980 c 30 s 3 are each amended to read  
27 as follows:

28        Any person desiring to be issued a certificate of competency as  
29 provided in this chapter shall deliver evidence in a form prescribed by  
30 the department affirming that said person has met the qualifications  
31 required under RCW 19.28.530(~~(, as now or hereafter amended))~~). An  
32 electrician from another jurisdiction applying for a certificate of  
33 competency must provide evidence in a form prescribed by the department  
34 affirming that the person has the equivalent qualifications to those  
35 required under RCW 19.28.530.

36        **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.530 and 1988 c 81 s 13 are each amended to read  
37 as follows:

1 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review  
2 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take  
3 an examination for the journeyman or specialty certificate of  
4 competency.

5 (a) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman  
6 certificate the applicant must have:

7 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of  
8 four years employed full time, of which two years shall be in  
9 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision  
10 of a journeyman electrician (~~((certified under this chapter))~~) and not  
11 more than a total of two years in all specialties under the supervision  
12 of a journeyman electrician (~~((certified under this chapter))~~) or an  
13 appropriate specialty electrician (~~((certified under this chapter or  
14 have))~~); or

15 (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved  
16 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.

17 (b) To be eligible to take the examination to become a specialty  
18 electrician the applicant shall have:

19 (i) Worked in that specialty of the electrical construction trade,  
20 under the supervision of a journeyman electrician (~~((certified under  
21 this chapter))~~) or an appropriate specialty electrician (~~((certified  
22 under this chapter))~~), for a minimum of two years employed full  
23 time(~~((7))~~); or (~~((have))~~)

24 (ii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program  
25 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the electrical  
26 construction trade.

27 (~~((Before January 1, 1984, applicants for nonresidential maintenance  
28 specialty licenses are eligible to become nonresidential maintenance  
29 specialists upon certification to the department that they have the  
30 equivalent of two years full-time experience in that specialty field.  
31 Persons applying before January 1, 1984, for a journeyman certificate  
32 are eligible to take the examination to become journeymen until July 1,  
33 1984, upon certification to the department that they have the  
34 equivalent of five years full-time experience in nonresidential  
35 maintenance, of which two years shall be in industrial electrical  
36 installation.))~~)

37 (c) Any applicant who has successfully completed a two-year  
38 (~~((technical school))~~) program in the electrical construction trade (~~((in  
39 a school that is approved))~~) at public community or technical colleges,

1 or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade schools  
2 licensed by the ((commission for vocational education)) work force  
3 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may  
4 substitute up to two years of the technical or trade school program for  
5 two years of work experience under a journeyman electrician. The  
6 applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience  
7 required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to  
8 the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school  
9 program. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical  
10 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be  
11 eligible to take the examination for the certificate of competency.  
12 ~~((Any applicant who is a graduate of a trade school program in the~~  
13 ~~electrical construction trade that was established during 1946 is~~  
14 ~~eligible to take the examination for the certificate of competency.))~~

15 (d) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

16 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the  
17 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In  
18 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.  
19 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
20 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating  
21 the time and place for taking the examination.

22 **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.28.070 and 1986 c 156 s 4 are each amended to read  
23 as follows:

24 The director of labor and industries of the state of Washington and  
25 the officials of all incorporated cities and towns where electrical  
26 inspections are required by local ordinances shall have power and it  
27 shall be their duty to enforce the provisions of this chapter in their  
28 respective jurisdictions. The director of labor and industries shall  
29 ~~((have power to))~~ appoint ~~((an))~~ a chief electrical inspector~~((, and~~  
30 ~~such assistant inspectors as he shall deem necessary to assist him in~~  
31 ~~the performance of his duties))~~ and may appoint other electrical  
32 inspectors as the director deems necessary to assist the director in  
33 the performance of the director's duties. The chief electrical  
34 inspector, subject to the review of the director, shall be responsible  
35 for providing the final interpretation of adopted state electrical  
36 standards, rules, and policies for the department and its inspectors,  
37 assistant inspectors, electrical plan examiners, and other individuals  
38 supervising electrical program personnel. If a dispute arises within

1 the department regarding the interpretation of adopted state electrical  
2 standards, rules, or policies, the chief electrical inspector, subject  
3 to the review of the director, shall provide the final interpretation  
4 of the disputed standard, rule, or policy. All electrical inspectors  
5 appointed by the director of labor and industries shall have not less  
6 than: Four years experience as journeyman electricians in the  
7 electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical  
8 wiring and equipment, or two years electrical training in a college of  
9 electrical engineering of recognized standing and four years continuous  
10 practical electrical experience in installation work, or four years of  
11 electrical training in a college of electrical engineering of  
12 recognized standing and two years continuous practical electrical  
13 experience in electrical installation work; or four years experience as  
14 a journeyman electrician performing the duties of an electrical  
15 inspector employed by the department or a city or town with an approved  
16 inspection program under RCW 19.28.360, except that for work performed  
17 in accordance with the national electrical safety code and covered by  
18 this chapter, such inspections may be performed by a person certified  
19 as an outside journeyman lineman, under RCW 19.28.610(2), with four  
20 years experience or a person with four years experience as a certified  
21 outside journeyman lineman performing the duties of an electrical  
22 inspector employed by an electrical utility. Such state inspectors  
23 shall be paid such salary as the director of labor and industries shall  
24 determine, together with their travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
25 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. As a  
26 condition of employment, inspectors hired exclusively to perform  
27 inspections in accordance with the national electrical safety code must  
28 possess and maintain certification as an outside journeyman lineman.  
29 The expenses of the director of labor and industries and the salaries  
30 and expenses of state inspectors incurred in carrying out the  
31 provisions of this chapter shall be paid entirely out of the electrical  
32 license fund, upon vouchers approved by the director of labor and  
33 industries.

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