H-1534.2

HOUSE BILL 1951

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Buck, Grant, Clements, Schoesler, Sump, Kessler and McMahan

Read first time 02/18/2003. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

- AN ACT Relating to limiting the scope of electrical work subject to 1 2 licensing, certification, permitting, and inspection requirements; amending RCW 19.28.006, 19.28.010, 19.28.021, 19.28.041, 19.28.051, 3 19.28.081, 19.28.091, 19.28.101, 19.28.141, 19.28.151, 4 19.28.161, 19.28.191, 19.28.261, 19.28.271, 19.28.311, 19.28.341, and 19.28.361; 5 6 adding a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW; and repealing RCW 19.28.301, 7 19.28.400, 19.28.410, 19.28.420, 19.28.430, 19.28.440, 19.28.450, 19.28.460, 19.28.470, 19.28.480, 19.28.490, 19.28.501, 19.28.511, 8 19.28.521, 19.28.531, 19.28.541, and 19.28.551. 9
- 10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 19.28 RCW to read as follows:
- 13 (1) Only the work in the electrical construction trade that, 14 pursuant to the department's routine practice, was subject to 15 licensing, certification, or inspection and permitting requirements as
- 16 of January 1, 1998, is subject to licensing requirements under RCW
- 17 19.28.091, certification requirements under RCW 19.28.161, and
- 18 inspection and permitting requirements under RCW 19.28.101. In any
- 19 proceeding involving a question of whether particular work was subject

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- 1 to licensing, certification, or inspection and permitting requirements
- 2 as of January 1, 1998, the department has the burden of establishing
- 3 its routine practice as of that date with evidence in the form of
- 4 licenses, certificates, inspection records, or permits.
- 5 (2) All work other than the work specified in subsection (1) of
- 6 this section is exempt from licensing requirements under RCW 19.28.091,
- 7 certification requirements under RCW 19.28.161, and inspection and
- 8 permitting requirements under RCW 19.28.101.

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- 9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.006 and 2002 c 249 s 1 are each amended to read 10 as follows:
- 11 The definitions in this section apply throughout this subchapter.
- 12 (1) "Administrator" means a person designated by an electrical 13 contractor to supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance 14 with the rules adopted under this chapter.
 - (2) "Board" means the electrical board under RCW 19.28.311.
- 16 (3) "Chapter" or "subchapter" means the subchapter, if no chapter number is referenced.
- 18 (4) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.
- 19 (5) "Director" means the director of the department or the 20 director's designee.
 - (6) "Electrical construction trade" ((includes but is not limited to)) means installing or maintaining electrical wires and equipment that are used for light, heat, or power and installing and maintaining remote control, signaling, power limited, or communication circuits or systems.
 - (7) "Electrical contractor" means a person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity that offers to undertake, undertakes, submits a bid for, or does the work ((of installing or maintaining wires or equipment that convey electrical current)) in the electrical construction trade specified in section 1 of this act.
- 31 (8) "Equipment" means any equipment or apparatus that directly 32 uses, conducts, insulates, or is operated by electricity but does not 33 mean: Plug-in appliances; or plug-in equipment as determined by the 34 department by rule.
- 35 (9) "Industrial control panel" means a factory-wired or user-wired 36 assembly of industrial control equipment such as motor controllers,

switches, relays, power supplies, computers, cathode ray tubes, transducers, and auxiliary devices. The panel may include disconnect means and motor branch circuit protective devices.

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- (10) "Journeyman electrician" means a person who has been issued a journeyman electrician certificate of competency by the department.
- (11) "Master electrician" means either a master journeyman
 - (12) "Master journeyman electrician" means a person who has been issued a master journeyman electrician certificate of competency by the department and who may be designated by an electrical contractor to supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter.
 - (13) "Master specialty electrician" means a person who has been issued a specialty electrician certificate of competency by the department and who may be designated by an electrical contractor to supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter.
- 18 (14) "Specialty electrician" means a person who has been issued a 19 specialty electrician certificate of competency by the department.
- 20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.010 and 2001 c 211 s 2 are each amended to read 21 as follows:
 - (1) ((All wires and equipment, and installations thereof, that convey electric current and installations of equipment to be operated by electric current, in, on, or about buildings or structures)) Work in the electric construction trade as specified in section 1 of this act, except for telephone, telegraph, radio, and television wires and equipment, and television antenna installations, signal strength amplifiers, and coaxial installations pertaining thereto shall be in strict conformity with this chapter, the statutes of the state of Washington, and the rules issued by the department, and shall be in conformity with approved methods of construction for safety to life and property. All wires and equipment that fall within section 90.2(b)(5) of the National Electrical Code, 1981 edition, are exempt from the requirements of this chapter. The regulations and articles in the National Electrical Code, the national electrical safety code, and other installation and safety regulations approved by the national fire protection association, as modified or supplemented by rules issued by

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the department in furtherance of safety to life and property under 1 2 authority hereby granted, shall be prima facie evidence of the approved methods of construction. ((All)) Materials, devices, appliances, and 3 equipment used in ((such installations)) work in the electrical 4 construction trade as specified in section 1 of this act shall be of a 5 type that conforms to applicable standards or be indicated as 6 7 acceptable by the established standards of any electrical product testing laboratory which is accredited by the department. 8 control panels, utilization equipment, and their components do not need 9 10 to be listed, labeled, or otherwise indicated as acceptable by an accredited electrical product testing laboratory unless specifically 11 12 required by the National Electrical Code, 1993 edition.

- (2) Residential buildings or structures moved into or within a county, city, or town are not required to comply with all of the requirements of this chapter, if the original occupancy classification of the building or structure is not changed as a result of the move. This subsection shall not apply to residential buildings or structures that are substantially remodeled or rehabilitated.
- (3) This chapter shall not limit the authority or power of any city or town to enact and enforce under authority given by law, any ordinance, rule, or regulation requiring ((an equal, higher, or better)) the same standards of construction and ((an equal, higher, or better standard)) of materials, devices, appliances, and equipment ((than that)) as is required by this chapter. A city or town shall require that its electrical inspectors meet the qualifications provided for state electrical inspectors in accordance with RCW 19.28.321. a city or town having ((an equal, higher, or better)) the same standards, the installations, materials, devices, appliances, and equipment shall be in accordance with the ordinance, rule, regulation of the city or town. Electrical equipment associated with spas, hot tubs, swimming pools, and hydromassage bathtubs shall not be offered for sale or exchange unless the electrical equipment is certified as being in compliance with the applicable product safety standard by bearing the certification mark of an approved electrical products testing laboratory.
- (4) Nothing in this chapter may be construed as permitting the connection of any conductor of any electric circuit with a pipe that is connected with or designed to be connected with a waterworks piping

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- system, without the consent of the person or persons legally responsible for the operation and maintenance of the waterworks piping
- 3 system.

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- 4 **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.28.021 and 2000 c 171 s 46 are each amended to read 5 as follows:
- 6 Disputes arising under RCW 19.28.010(3) regarding whether the city 7 or town's electrical rules, regulations, or ordinances are ((equal to)) the same as the rules adopted by the department shall be resolved by 8 9 arbitration. The department shall appoint two members of the board to 10 serve on the arbitration panel, and the city or town shall appoint two 11 persons to serve on the arbitration panel. These four persons shall 12 choose a fifth person to serve. If the four persons cannot agree on a fifth person, the presiding judge of the superior court of the county 13 in which the city or town is located shall choose a fifth person. 14 15 decision of the arbitration panel may be appealed to the superior court 16 of the county in which the city or town is located within thirty days 17 after the date the panel issues its final decision.
- 18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 19.28.041 and 2002 c 249 s 2 are each amended to read 19 as follows:
 - (1) It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of ((installing or maintaining wires or equipment to convey electric current, or installing or maintaining equipment to be operated by electric current as it pertains to the electrical industry,)) performing work in the electrical construction trade as specified in section 1 of this act without having an unrevoked, unsuspended, and unexpired electrical contractor license, issued by the department in accordance with this chapter. All electrical contractor licenses expire twenty-four calendar months following the day of their issue. The department may issue an electrical contractors license for a period of less than twenty-four months only for the purpose of equalizing the number of electrical contractor licenses that expire each month. Application for an electrical contractor license shall be made in writing to the department, accompanied by the required fee. The application shall state:

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- 1 (a) The name and address of the applicant; in case of firms or 2 partnerships, the names of the individuals composing the firm or 3 partnership; in case of corporations, the names of the managing 4 officials thereof;
 - (b) The location of the place of business of the applicant and the name under which the business is conducted;
 - (c) Employer social security number;

- 8 (d) Evidence of workers' compensation coverage for the applicant's employees working in Washington, as follows:
- 10 (i) The applicant's industrial insurance account number issued by 11 the department;
- 12 (ii) The applicant's self-insurer number issued by the department;
 13 or
 - (iii) For applicants domiciled in a state or province of Canada subject to an agreement entered into under RCW 51.12.120(7), as permitted by the agreement, filing a certificate of coverage issued by the agency that administers the workers' compensation law in the applicant's state or province of domicile certifying that the applicant has secured the payment of compensation under the other state's or province's workers' compensation law;
 - (e) Employment security department number;
 - (f) State excise tax registration number;
 - (g) Unified business identifier (UBI) account number may be substituted for the information required by (d) of this subsection if the applicant will not employ employees in Washington, and by (e) and (f) of this subsection; and
 - (h) Whether a general or specialty electrical contractor license is sought and, if the latter, the type of specialty. Electrical contractor specialties ((include, but)) are ((not limited to)): Residential, pump and irrigation, limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance, ((restricted nonresidential maintenance, appliance repair,)) and a combination specialty. A general electrical contractor license shall grant to the holder the right to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of ((installing or maintaining wires or equipment to carry electric current, and installing or maintaining equipment, or installing or maintaining material to fasten or insulate such wires or equipment to be operated by electric current, in the state of Washington)) performing work in the electric construction

trade as specified in section 1 of this act. A specialty electrical contractor license shall grant to the holder a limited right to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of ((installing or maintaining wires or equipment to carry electrical current, and installing or maintaining equipment; or installing or maintaining material to fasten or insulate such wires or equipment to be operated by electric current in the state of Washington as expressly allowed by the license)) performing work in the electric construction trade as specified in section 1 of this act.

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- (2) The department may verify the workers' compensation coverage information provided by the applicant under subsection (1)(d) of this section, including but not limited to information regarding the coverage of an individual employee of the applicant. If coverage is provided under the laws of another state, the department may notify the other state that the applicant is employing employees in Washington.
- (3) The application for an electrical contractor license shall be accompanied by a bond in the sum of four thousand dollars with the state of Washington named as obligee in the bond, with good and sufficient surety, to be approved by the department. The bond shall at all times be kept in full force and effect, and any cancellation or revocation thereof, or withdrawal of the surety therefrom, suspends the license issued to the principal until a new bond has been filed and approved as provided in this section. Upon approval of a bond, the department shall on the next business day deposit the fee accompanying the application in the electrical license fund and shall file the bond in the office. The department shall upon request furnish to any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity a certified copy of the bond upon the payment of a fee that the department shall set by rule. The fee shall cover but not exceed the cost of furnishing The bond shall be conditioned that in any the certified copy. installation or maintenance of wires or equipment to convey electrical current, and equipment to be operated by electrical current, the principal will comply with the provisions of this chapter and with any electrical ordinance, building code, or regulation of a city or town adopted pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3) that is in effect at the time of entering into a contract. The bond shall be conditioned further that the principal will pay for all labor, including employee benefits, and material furnished or used upon the work, taxes and contributions to

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the state of Washington, and all damages that may be sustained by any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity due to a failure of the principal to make the installation or maintenance in accordance with this chapter or any applicable ordinance, building code, or regulation of a city or town adopted pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3). In lieu of the surety bond required by this section the license applicant may file with the department a cash deposit or other negotiable security acceptable to the department. If the license applicant has filed a cash deposit, the department shall deposit the funds in a special trust savings account in a commercial bank, mutual savings bank, or savings and loan association and shall pay annually to the depositor the interest derived from the account.

- (4) The department shall issue general or specialty electrical contractor licenses to applicants meeting all of the requirements of this chapter. The provisions of this chapter relating to the licensing of any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity including the requirement of a bond with the state of Washington named as obligee therein and the collection of a fee therefor, are exclusive, and no political subdivision of the state of Washington may require or issue any licenses or bonds or charge any fee for the same or a similar purpose. No person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity holding more than one specialty contractor license under this chapter may be required to pay an annual fee for more than one such license or to post more than one four thousand dollar bond, equivalent cash deposit, or other negotiable security.
- (5) To obtain a general or specialty electrical contractor license the applicant must designate an individual who currently possesses a valid master journeyman electrician's certificate of competency, master specialty electrician's certificate of competency in the specialty for which application has been made, or administrator's certificate as a general electrical contractor administrator or as a specialty electrical contractor administrator in the specialty for which application has been made.
- (6) Administrator certificate specialties ((include but)) are ((not limited to)): Residential, pump and irrigation, limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance, ((restricted nonresidential maintenance, appliance repair,)) and combination specialty. To obtain an administrator's certificate an individual must pass an examination

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as set forth in RCW 19.28.051 unless the applicant was a licensed 1 electrical contractor at any time during 1974. Applicants who were 2 electrical contractors licensed by the state of Washington at any time 3 during 1974 are entitled to receive a general electrical contractor 4 administrator's certificate without examination if the applicants apply 5 prior to January 1, 1984. The board of electrical examiners shall 6 7 certify to the department the names of all persons who are entitled to either a general or specialty electrical contractor administrator's 8 certificate. 9

Sec. 6. RCW 19.28.051 and 2001 c 211 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

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It shall be the purpose and function of the board to establish((7 in addition to a general electrical contractors' license, such classifications of specialty electrical contractors' licenses as it deems appropriate with regard to individual sections pertaining to state adopted codes in this chapter. In addition, it shall be the purpose and function of the board to establish)) and administer written examinations for general electrical administrators' certificates and various specialty electrical administrators' certificates. the Examinations shall be designed to reasonably ((insure)) ensure that general and specialty electrical administrators' certificate holders are competent to engage in and supervise the work covered by this ((statute)) chapter and their respective licenses. The examinations shall include questions from the following categories to assure proper safety and protection for the general public: (1) Safety, (2) state electrical code, and (3) electrical theory. The department with the consent of the board shall be permitted to enter into a contract with a professional testing agency to develop, administer, and score these examinations. The fee for the examination may be set by the department in its contract with the professional testing agency. The department may direct that the applicant pay the fee to the professional testing agency. The fee shall cover but not exceed the costs of preparing and administering the examination. It shall be the further purpose and function of this board to advise the director as to the need of additional electrical inspectors and compliance officers to be utilized by the director on either a full-time or part-time employment basis and

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- 1 to carry out the duties enumerated in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271
- 2 as well as generally advise the department on all matters relative to
- 3 RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271.

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- 4 **Sec. 7.** RCW 19.28.081 and 1986 c 156 s 9 are each amended to read 5 as follows:
- 6 No person, firm, or corporation engaging in, conducting, or 7 carrying on the business of ((installing wires or equipment to convey 8 electric current, or installing apparatus to be operated by said current,)) performing work in the electrical construction trade as 9 specified in section 1 of this act shall be entitled to commence or 10 11 maintain any suit or action in any court of this state pertaining to 12 any such work or business, without alleging and proving that such person, firm, or corporation held, at the time of commencing and 13 performing such work, an unexpired, unrevoked, and unsuspended license 14 15 issued under the provisions of this chapter; and no city or town 16 requiring by ordinance or regulation a permit for inspection or installation of such electrical work, shall issue such permit to any 17 18 person, firm, or corporation not holding such license.
- 19 **Sec. 8.** RCW 19.28.091 and 2001 c 211 s 6 are each amended to read 20 as follows:
- 21 (1) All work other than the work specified in section 1(1) of this 22 act is exempt from licensing requirements under this chapter.
 - (2) The specific exemptions set forth in this subsection (2) are in addition to the general exemption set forth in section 1(2) of this act and subsection (1) of this section.
 - (a) No license under the provision of this chapter shall be required from any utility or any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity employed by a utility because of work in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by or under the control of a utility and used for transmission or distribution of electricity from the source of supply to the point of contact at the premises and/or property to be supplied and service connections and meters and other apparatus or appliances used in the measurement of the consumption of electricity by the customer.

 $((\frac{2}{2}))$ (b) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be required from any utility because of work in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of the following:

- $((\frac{a}{a}))$ (i) Lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment used in the lighting of streets, alleys, ways, or public areas or squares;
- ((\(\frac{(\fir)}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}})\frac{\frac{\frac{1}}}}}}}}} \frac{\frac{\frac{(\fir)}}}}}}}}}} \frac{\frac{\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\fir)}}}}}}}}}} \frac{\frac{\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\fir)}}}}}}}} \frac{\frac{\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\fir)}}}}}}}} \frac{\frac{\frac{(\fir)}}}}}}} \frac{\frac{\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\frac{(\fir)
- $((\frac{\langle c \rangle}{}))$ (iii) Lines and wires, together with ancillary apparatus, and equipment, owned by a customer that is an independent power producer who has entered into an agreement for the sale of electricity to a utility and that are used in transmitting electricity from an electrical generating unit located on premises used by such customer to the point of interconnection with the utility's system.
- $((\frac{3}{2}))$ (c) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity licensed under RCW 19.28.041 may enter into a contract with a utility for the performance of work under ((subsection (2) of this section)) (b) of this subsection.
- ((4))) (d) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity because of the work of installing and repairing ignition or lighting systems for motor vehicles.
- (((5))) (e) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity because of work in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of wires and equipment, and installations thereof, exempted in RCW 19.28.010.
- ((6) The department may by rule exempt from licensing requirements under this chapter)) (f) No license under the provisions of this chapter is required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity because of work performed on premanufactured electric power generation equipment assemblies and control gear involving the testing, repair, modification, maintenance, or installation of components internal to the power generation equipment, the control gear, or the transfer switch.

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1 **Sec. 9.** RCW 19.28.101 and 1996 c 241 s 4 are each amended to read 2 as follows:

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- (1) The director shall cause an inspector to inspect ((all wiring, appliances, devices, and equipment to which this chapter applies)) work in the electrical construction trade as specified in section 1 of this act. Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed as providing any authority for any subdivision of government to adopt by ordinance any provisions contained or provided for in this chapter except those pertaining to cities and towns pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3).
- (2) Upon request, electrical inspections will be made by the department within forty-eight hours, excluding holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays. If, upon written request, the electrical inspector fails to make an electrical inspection within twenty-four hours, the serving utility may immediately connect electrical power to the installation if the necessary electrical work permit is displayed: PROVIDED, That if the request is for an electrical inspection that relates to a mobile home installation, the applicant shall provide proof of a current building permit issued by the local government agency authorized to issue such permits as a prerequisite for inspection approval or connection of electrical power to the mobile home.
- (3) Whenever the installation of any wiring, device, appliance, or equipment is not in accordance with this chapter, or is in such a condition as to be dangerous to life or property, the person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity owning, using, or operating it shall be notified by the department and shall within fifteen days, or such further reasonable time as may upon request be granted, make such repairs and changes as are required to remove the danger to life or property and to make it conform to this chapter. The director, through the inspector, is hereby empowered to disconnect or order the discontinuance of electrical service to conductors or equipment that are found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition and not in accordance with this chapter. Upon making a disconnection the inspector shall attach a notice stating that the conductors have been found dangerous to life or property and are not in accordance with this It is unlawful for any person to reconnect such defective conductors or equipment without the approval of the department, and until the conductors and equipment have been placed in a safe and secure condition, and in a condition that complies with this chapter.

(4) The director, through the electrical inspector, has the right during reasonable hours to enter into and upon any building or premises in the discharge of his or her official duties for the purpose of making any inspection or test of the installation of new construction or altered electrical wiring, electrical devices, equipment, or material contained in or on the buildings or premises. No electrical wiring or equipment subject to this chapter may be concealed until it has been approved by the inspector making the inspection. At the time of the inspection, electrical wiring or equipment subject to this chapter must be sufficiently accessible to permit the inspector to employ any testing methods that will verify conformance with the national electrical code and any other requirements of this chapter.

- (5) Persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, or other entities making electrical installations shall obtain inspection and approval from an authorized representative of the department as required by this chapter before requesting the electric utility to connect to the installations. Electric utilities may connect to the installations if approval is clearly indicated by certification of the electrical work permit required to be affixed to each installation or by equivalent means, except that increased or relocated services may be reconnected immediately at the discretion of the utility before approval if an electrical work permit is displayed. The permits shall be furnished upon payment of the fee to the department.
- (6) The director, subject to the recommendations and approval of the board, shall set by rule a schedule of license and electrical work permit fees that will cover the costs of administration and enforcement of this chapter. The rules shall be adopted in accordance with the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. No fee may be charged for plug-in mobile homes, recreational vehicles, or portable appliances.
- (7) Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the inspection of any wiring, appliance, device, or equipment, or installations thereof, by any utility or by any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity employed by a utility in connection with the installation, repair, or maintenance of lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by or under the control of the utility. All work covered by the national electric code not exempted by the 1981 edition of the national electric code 90-2(B)(5) shall be inspected by the department.

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Sec. 10. RCW 19.28.141 and 2001 c 211 s 9 are each amended to read as follows:

The provisions of RCW 19.28.101 shall not apply:

- (1) Within the corporate limits of any incorporated city or town which has heretofore adopted and enforced or subsequently adopts and enforces an ordinance requiring ((an equal, higher or better)) the same standards of construction and of materials, devices, appliances and equipment ((than)) as is required by this chapter.
- (2) Within the service area of an electricity supply agency owned and operated by a city or town which is supplying electricity and enforcing a standard of construction and materials outside its corporate limits at the time this act takes effect: PROVIDED, That such city, town or agency shall henceforth enforce by inspection within its service area outside its corporate limits the same standards of construction and of materials, devices, appliances and equipment as is enforced by the department of labor and industries under the authority of this chapter: PROVIDED FURTHER, That fees charged henceforth in connection with such enforcement shall not exceed those established in RCW 19.28.101.
- (3) Within the rights of way of state highways, provided the state department of transportation maintains and enforces ((an equal, higher or better)) the same standards of construction and of materials, devices, appliances and equipment ((than)) as is required by RCW 19.28.010 through 19.28.141 and 19.28.311 through 19.28.361.
- **Sec. 11.** RCW 19.28.151 and 2001 c 211 s 10 are each amended to 26 read as follows:
- 27 (1) All work other than the work specified in section 1(1) of this
 28 act is exempt from licensing requirements under RCW 19.28.091,
 29 certification requirements under RCW 19.28.161, and inspection and
 30 permitting requirements under RCW 19.28.101.
 - (2) The specific exemptions set forth in this subsection (2) are in addition to the general exemption set forth in section 1(2) of this act and subsection (1) of this section. The provisions of RCW 19.28.010 through 19.28.141 and 19.28.311 through 19.28.361 shall not apply to the work of installing, maintaining, or repairing any and all electrical wires, apparatus, installations, or equipment used or to be

used by a telegraph company or a telephone company in the exercise of its functions and located outdoors or in a building or buildings used exclusively for that purpose.

Sec. 12. RCW 19.28.161 and 2002 c 249 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

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- (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade <u>as</u> <u>specified in section 1 of this act</u> without having a valid master journeyman electrician certificate of competency, journeyman electrician certificate of competency, master specialty electrician certificate of competency, or specialty electrician certificate of competency issued by the department in accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of competency specialties ((include, but)) are ((not limited to)): Residential, pump and irrigation, limited energy system, signs, <u>and</u> nonresidential maintenance((, restricted nonresidential maintenance, and appliance repair)).
- (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade or who is learning the electrical construction trade may work in the electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician in that electrician's specialty. All apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade shall obtain an electrical training certificate from the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to learn the electrical construction trade while under the direct supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. The holder of the electrical training certificate shall renew the certificate biennially. At the time of renewal, the holder shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's employers in the electrical construction industry for the previous biennial period and the number of hours worked for each employer. A biennial fee shall be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The department shall set the fee by rule. shall cover but not exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.

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Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade shall have their electrical training certificates in their possession at all times that they are performing electrical work. They shall show their certificates to an authorized representative of the department at the representative's request.

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- (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under supervision. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same job site and under the control of either a certified master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Either a certified master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty shall be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter.
- (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master journeymen electricians, journeymen electricians, master specialty electricians, or specialty electricians on any one job site is as follows:
- (a) When working as a specialty electrician, not more than two noncertified individuals for every certified master electrician working in that electrician's specialty, specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, master journeyman electrician, or journeyman electrician, except that the ratio requirements are one certified master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, master journeyman electrician, or journeyman electrician working as a specialty electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working as part of an electrical construction program at public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 In meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and advice from the electrical board; and

(b) When working as a journeyman electrician, not more than one noncertified individual for every certified master journeyman electrician, except electrician or that the requirements shall be one certified master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working as part of an electrical construction program at public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and advice from the electrical board.

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

(5) ((For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(b)(i)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(c)), limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(e)(i)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46A 930(2)(f)(i)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential specialties, not including appliance repair, as determined by the department in rule, either a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty must be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each working day. Other specialties must meet the requirements specified in RCW $\frac{19.28.191(1)(f)(ii)}{}$.)) When the ratio of certified electricians to noncertified individuals on a job site is one certified electrician to three or four noncertified individuals, the certified electrician must:

(a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals

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and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an electrical installation; and

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- (b) Be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a minimum of one hundred percent of each working day.
- 5 (6) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and attest to 6 the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on behalf of 7 the electrical contractor.
- 8 **Sec. 13.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2002 c 249 s 5 are each amended to read 9 as follows:
 - (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take an examination for the master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician certificate of competency.
 - (a) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency in effect for the previous four years and a valid general administrator's certificate may apply for a master journeyman electrician certificate of competency without examination.
 - (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without examination.
 - (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journeyman electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency for four years.
- 30 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty 31 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed 32 a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the 33 specialty applied for, for two years.
- 34 (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman 35 certificate of competency the applicant must have:
- 36 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of 37 eight thousand hours, of which four thousand hours shall be in

industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision of a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician and not more than a total of four thousand hours in all specialties under the supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty((-Speciality electricians with less than a four thousand hour work experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that specialty towards qualifying to become a journeyman electrician)); or

- (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.
- (f) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have:
- (i) Worked ((in the residential (as specified in WAC 296 46A-930(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296 46A-930(2)(b)(i)), sign (as specified in WAC 296 46A-930(2)(c)), limited energy (as specified in WAC 296 46A-930(2)(e)(i)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296 46A-930(2)(f)(i)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the department in rule)) under the supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of four thousand hours; or
- (ii) ((Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by the department in rule or a specialty other than the designated specialties in (f)(i) of this subsection for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the department. The initial period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance repair specialty or in a specialty other than the designated specialities in

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(f)(i) of this subsection, however, until the person has worked a minimum of two thousand hours in that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department; or

- (iii))) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the electrical construction trade.
- (g) Any applicant for a journeyman electrician certificate of competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the electrical construction trade at public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two years of the technical or trade school program for two years of work experience under a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician. applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school Any applicant who has received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification to take the examination for the journeyman electrician certificate of competency.
- (h) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade school licensed by the work force training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for one year of work experience under a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

(i) The department must determine whether hours of training and experience in the armed services or school program are in the electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for hours of work experience. The department must use the following criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

- (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of three thousand or more hours.
- (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of two thousand four hundred hours of student/instructor contact time must be technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope of work of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time includes lecture and in-school lab.
- (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that accepts more than one thousand hours transferred from another school's program.
- (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than two years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time hours proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more than fifty percent of the work experience required to attain certification.
- (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not be credited towards qualification for journeyman electrician unless the training program is used to gain qualification for a four thousand hour electrical specialty.
 - (j) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.
- (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating the time and place for taking the examination.
- (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of this section, full-time basis means two thousand hours.

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1 **Sec. 14.** RCW 19.28.261 and 2001 c 211 s 19 are each amended to read as follows:

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- (1) All work other than the work specified in section 1(1) of this act is exempt from licensing and certification requirements under this chapter.
- (2) The specific exemptions set forth in this subsection (2) are in addition to the general exemption set forth in section 1(2) of this act and subsection (1) of this section.
- (a) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed 9 to require that a person obtain a license or a certified electrician in 10 order to do electrical work at his or her residence or farm or place of 11 12 business or on other property owned by him or her unless the electrical 13 work is on the construction of a new building intended for rent, sale, 14 However, if the construction is of a new residential or lease. building with up to four units intended for rent, sale, or lease, the 15 16 owner may receive an exemption from the requirement to obtain a license 17 or use a certified electrician if he or she provides a signed affidavit to the department stating that he or she will be performing the work 18 and will occupy one of the units as his or her principal residence. 19 The owner shall apply to the department for this exemption and may only 20 21 receive an exemption once every twenty-four months. It is intended 22 that the owner receiving this exemption shall occupy the unit as his or 23 her principal residence for twenty-four months after completion of the 24 units.
 - (b) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be intended to derogate from or dispense with the requirements of any valid electrical code enacted by a city or town pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3), except that no code shall require the holder of a certificate of competency to demonstrate any additional proof of competency or obtain any other license or pay any fee in order to engage in the electrical construction trade.
 - (c) RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not apply to common carriers subject to Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act, nor to their officers and employees.
- 35 (d) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be deemed to 36 apply to the installation or maintenance of telephone, telegraph, 37 radio, or television wires and equipment; nor to any electrical utility

or its employees in the installation, repair, and maintenance of electrical wiring, circuits, and equipment by or for the utility, or comprising a part of its plants, lines or systems.

- (e) The licensing provisions of RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not apply to:
- $((\frac{1}{1}))$ (i) Persons making electrical installations on their own property or to regularly employed employees working on the premises of their employer, unless the electrical work is on the construction of a new building intended for rent, sale, or lease;
- $((\frac{1}{2}))$ (ii) Employees of an employer while the employer is performing utility type work of the nature described in RCW 19.28.091 so long as such employees have registered in the state of Washington with or graduated from a state-approved outside lineman apprenticeship course that is recognized by the department and that qualifies a person to perform such work; or
- $((\frac{3}{3}))$ (iii) Any work exempted under RCW 19.28.091 $(\frac{6}{3})$ (2)(f).
 - (f) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed to restrict the right of any householder to assist or receive assistance from a friend, neighbor, relative or other person when none of the individuals doing the electrical installation hold themselves out as engaged in the trade or business of electrical installations.
 - (g) Nothing precludes any person who is exempt from the licensing requirements of this chapter under this section from obtaining a journeyman or specialty certificate of competency if they otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter.
- **Sec. 15.** RCW 19.28.271 and 2001 c 211 s 20 are each amended to 27 read as follows:
 - (1) It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity to employ an individual for purposes of RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 who has not been issued a certificate of competency or a training certificate. It is unlawful for any individual to engage in the electrical construction trade ((or to maintain or install any electrical equipment or conductors)) as specified in section 1 of this act without having in his or her possession a certificate of competency or a training certificate under RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271. Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity found in violation of RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be assessed a

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penalty of not less than fifty dollars or more than five hundred 1 2 dollars. The department shall set by rule a schedule of penalties for violating RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271. An appeal may be made to 3 the board as is provided in RCW 19.28.131. The appeal shall be filed 4 5 within twenty days after the notice of the penalty is given to the assessed party by certified mail, return receipt requested, sent to the 6 7 last known address of the assessed party and shall be made by filing a written notice of appeal with the department. Any equipment maintained 8 9 or installed by any person who does not possess a certificate of 10 competency under RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not receive an electrical work permit and electrical service shall not be connected or 11 12 maintained to operate the equipment. Each day that a person, firm, 13 partnership, corporation, or other entity violates RCW 19.28.161 14 through 19.28.271 is a separate violation.

(2) A civil penalty shall be collected in a civil action brought by the attorney general in the county wherein the alleged violation arose at the request of the department if any of RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 or any rules adopted under RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 are violated.

20 **Sec. 16.** RCW 19.28.311 and 2000 c 238 s 3 are each amended to read 21 as follows:

There is hereby created an electrical board, consisting ((fourteen)) eleven members to be appointed by the governor with the advice of the director of labor and industries as herein provided. shall be the purpose and function of the board to advise the director on all matters pertaining to the enforcement of this chapter including, but not limited to standards of electrical ((and telecommunications)) installation, minimum inspection procedures, and the adoption of rules pertaining to the electrical inspection division: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no rules shall be amended or repealed until the electrical board has first had an opportunity to consider any proposed amendments or repeals and had an opportunity to make recommendations to the director The members of the electrical board shall be relative thereto. selected and appointed as follows: One member shall be an employee or officer of a corporation or public agency generating or distributing electric power; ((one member must be an employee or officer of a facilities based telecommunications service provider regulated by the

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Washington state utilities and transportation commission;)) three 1 2 members shall be licensed electrical contractors: PROVIDED, That one 3 of these members may be a representative of a trade association in the ((one member shall be a licensed 4 electrical industry; telecommunications contractor;)) one member shall be an employee, or 5 officer, or representative of a corporation or firm engaged in the 6 7 of manufacturing or distributing electrical telecommunications)) materials, equipment, or devices; one member shall 8 be a person with knowledge of the electrical industry, not related to 9 10 the electrical industry, to represent the public; three members shall be certified electricians; ((one member shall be a telecommunications 11 12 worker;)) one member shall be a licensed professional electrical 13 engineer qualified to do business in the state of Washington ((and 14 designated as a registered communications distribution designer)); and one nonvoting member must be a building official from an incorporated 15 city or town with an electrical inspection program established under 16 17 RCW 19.28.141. The regular term of each member shall be four years: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, The original board shall be appointed on June 9, 18 1988, for the following terms: The first term of the member 19 representing a corporation or public agency generating or distributing 20 21 electric power shall serve four years; two members representing 22 licensed electrical contractors shall serve three years; the member representing a manufacturer or distributor of electrical equipment or 23 24 devices shall serve three years; the member representing the public and 25 one member representing licensed electrical contractors shall serve two years; the three members selected as certified electricians shall serve 26 27 for terms of one, two, and three years, respectively; the member selected as the licensed professional electrical engineer shall serve 28 In appointing the original board, the governor shall 29 for one year. give due consideration to the value of continuity in membership from 30 31 predecessor boards. Thereafter, the governor shall appoint reappoint board members for terms of four years and to fill vacancies 32 created by the completion of the terms of the original members. 33 34 new positions are created, the governor may appoint the initial members 35 to the new positions to staggered terms of one to three years. governor shall also fill vacancies caused by death, resignation, or 36 37 otherwise for the unexpired term of such members by appointing their successors from the same business classification. 38 The same procedure

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shall be followed in making such subsequent appointments as is provided 1 2 for the original appointments. The board, at this first meeting shall elect one of its members to serve as ((chairman)) chair. Any person 3 acting as the chief electrical inspector shall serve as secretary of 4 the board during his or her tenure as chief state inspector. Meetings 5 of the board shall be held at least quarterly in accordance with a 6 7 schedule established by the board. Each member of the board shall receive compensation in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and shall be 8 reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 9 10 43.03.060 which shall be paid out of the electrical license fund, upon vouchers approved by the director of labor and industries. 11

12 **Sec. 17.** RCW 19.28.341 and 2000 c 238 s 4 are each amended to read 13 as follows:

(1) The department has the power, in case of serious noncompliance with the provisions of this chapter, to revoke or suspend for such a period as it determines, any electrical ((or telecommunications)) contractor license or electrical ((or telecommunications)) contractor administrator certificate issued under this chapter. The department shall notify the holder of the license or certificate of the revocation or suspension by certified mail. A revocation or suspension is effective twenty days after the holder receives the notice. Any revocation or suspension is subject to review by an appeal to the The filing of an appeal stays the effect of a revocation or suspension until the board makes its decision. The appeal shall be filed within twenty days after notice of the revocation or suspension is given by certified mail sent to the address of the holder of the license or certificate as shown on the application for the license or certificate, and shall be effected by filing a written notice of appeal with the department, accompanied by a certified check for two hundred dollars, which shall be returned to the holder of the license or certificate if the decision of the department is not sustained by the board. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 If the board sustains the decision of the department, the two hundred dollars shall be applied by the department to the payment of the per diem and expenses of the members of the board incurred in the matter, and any balance remaining after payment of per diem and expenses shall be paid into the electrical license fund.

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(2) The department shall immediately suspend the license or certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic upon the department's receipt of a release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance with the order.

- **Sec. 18.** RCW 19.28.361 and 2000 c 238 s 5 are each amended to read 11 as follows:
 - Nothing contained in this chapter will be construed to relieve from or lessen the responsibility or liability of any person for injury or damage to person or property caused by or resulting from any defect of any nature in any electrical ((or telecommunications)) work performed by said person or in any electrical ((or telecommunications)) equipment owned, controlled, installed, operated or used by him or her; nor shall the state of Washington, or any officer, agent, or employee thereof incur or be held as assuming any liability by reason or in consequence of any permission, certificate of inspection, inspection or approval authorized herein, or issued or given as herein provided, or by reason of consequence of any things done or acts performed pursuant to any provision of this chapter.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:
- 26 (1) RCW 19.28.301 (Application--Subchapter heading) and 2000 c 238 27 s 1;
- 28 (2) RCW 19.28.400 (Definitions) and 2000 c 238 s 204;
- 29 (3) RCW 19.28.410 (Telecommunications systems installations—30 Subject to this subchapter) and 2000 c 238 s 205;
- 31 (4) RCW 19.28.420 (Telecommunications contractor license--32 Application--Bond--Issuance of license) and 2000 c 238 s 206;
- 33 (5) RCW 19.28.430 (Administrator's examination--Certificate--34 Administrator's requirements) and 2000 c 238 s 207;
- 35 (6) RCW 19.28.440 (Examination for telecommunications administrators' certificates) and 2000 c 238 s 208;

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- 1 (7) RCW 19.28.450 (Local enforcement of subchapter--Enforcement of chapter) and 2000 c 238 s 209;
- 3 (8) RCW 19.28.460 (Disputes regarding local regulations--4 Arbitration--Panel) and 2000 c 238 s 210;
- 5 (9) RCW 19.28.470 (Inspections--Report--Required repairs/changes--6 Accessibility of telecommunications systems) and 2000 c 238 s 211;
- 7 (10) RCW 19.28.480 (Unlawful acts--Interpretation of chapter) and 8 2000 c 238 s 212;
- 9 (11) RCW 19.28.490 (Violation of chapter--Penalty--Appeal) and 2000 to 238 s 213;
- 11 (12) RCW 19.28.501 (Insurance/financial responsibility) and 2000 c 12 238 s 214;
- 13 (13) RCW 19.28.511 (Individual certification not required) and 2000 14 c 238 s 215;
- 15 (14) RCW 19.28.521 (Limitation of action--Proof of valid license 16 required) and 2000 c 238 s 216;
- 17 (15) RCW 19.28.531 (Unlawful installation/maintenance--Disputed interpretation--Board to determine methods) and 2000 c 238 s 217;
- 19 (16) RCW 19.28.541 (Entity desiring board decision--Process) and 20 2000 c 238 s 218; and
- 21 (17) RCW 19.28.551 (Director's authority--Adoption of rules) and 22 2000 c 238 s 219.

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