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SENATE BILL 6019

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Fraser, and Chase

Read first time 01/14/14. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to electrical code adoption, rule-making, and  
2 inspection services; creating new sections; and providing an expiration  
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Currently, two different state agencies  
6 provide construction code adoption and rule-making services. The  
7 department of labor and industries, electrical division, provides code  
8 adoption and rule-making services for the electrical code, while the  
9 department of enterprise services, through the state building code  
10 council, provides code adoption and rule-making services for the  
11 building, plumbing, mechanical, fire, and energy codes. Both agencies  
12 perform similar tasks, except the department of labor and industries  
13 also provides electrical inspection services, while the state building  
14 code act requires all cities and counties to provide building,  
15 plumbing, mechanical, fire, and energy code inspection services. It is  
16 the intent of the legislature to determine the most appropriate and  
17 effective delivery of electrical code adoption, rule-making, and  
18 inspection services.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1)(a) A joint legislative task force to  
2 determine the most appropriate and effective delivery of electrical  
3 code adoption, rule-making, and inspection services is established.  
4 The task force consists of the following members:

5        (i) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate,  
6 appointed by the president of the senate;

7        (ii) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house  
8 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
9 representatives;

10       (iii) The director of the department of labor and industries or his  
11 or her designee;

12       (iv) The chief electrical inspector from the department of labor  
13 and industries or his or her designee;

14       (v) One representative each from two cities that have an electrical  
15 inspection program;

16       (vi) The director of the department of enterprise services or his  
17 or her designee;

18       (vii) The managing director of the state building code council;

19       (viii) The state building code council chair;

20       (ix) The president of the Washington association of building  
21 officials or his or her designee;

22       (x) One member of the association of Washington cities;

23       (xi) One member of the association of Washington counties;

24       (xii) One member of the building industry association of  
25 Washington;

26       (xiii) One member of the Washington chapter of the independent  
27 electrical contractors;

28       (xiv) One member of the Washington chapter of the national  
29 electrical contractors association;

30       (xv) One representative from organized labor; and

31       (xvi) One member from the general public not volunteering or  
32 holding an elected position with a city, town, or county, appointed by  
33 the lieutenant governor.

34       (b) The task force shall be cochaired by the legislative members  
35 appointed by the majority caucus in the senate and the majority caucus  
36 in the house of representatives.

37       (2)(a) The task force shall review the following issues and

1 recommend specific changes to chapters 19.27 and 19.28 RCW based upon  
2 its findings:

3 (i) The efficiencies of having one electrical code for the state's  
4 cities and counties, with the code adoption and rule-making services  
5 provided by the state building code council; and

6 (ii) The efficiencies of having all cities and counties assume  
7 responsibility for electrical code inspections in addition to their  
8 inspection responsibilities for the building, plumbing, mechanical,  
9 fire, and energy codes.

10 (b) If the task force finds that the code adoption and rule-making  
11 services for the electrical code are to remain within the authority of  
12 the department of labor and industries, the task force shall:

13 (i) Investigate the efficiencies of authorizing counties to  
14 establish their own electrical inspection program;

15 (ii) Investigate a new code adoption and rule-making process,  
16 within chapter 19.28 RCW, which provides cities, counties, and other  
17 stakeholders equal participation in the process; and

18 (iii) Investigate the efficiencies of the department of labor and  
19 industries electrical inspectors to also enforce the electrical  
20 provisions of the energy code within areas of its jurisdiction.

21 (3) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for  
22 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
23 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are  
24 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
25 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. All expenses of the task force, including  
26 travel, shall be paid jointly by the senate and house of  
27 representatives.

28 (4) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to  
29 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2014.

30 (5) This section expires December 31, 2014.

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