
SENATE BILL 5985

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senator Fortunato

Prefiled 12/04/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to plumbers; and amending RCW 18.106.070.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.106.070 and 2013 c 23 s 19 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The department shall issue a certificate of competency to all
6 applicants who have passed the examination and have paid the fee for
7 the certificate. The certificate may include a photograph of the
8 holder. The certificate shall bear the date of issuance, and shall
9 expire on the birthdate of the holder immediately following the date
10 of issuance. The certificate shall be renewable every other year,
11 upon application, on or before the birthdate of the holder, except
12 for specialty plumbers defined by RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) who also have
13 an electrical certification issued jointly as provided by RCW
14 18.106.050(3) in which case their certificate shall be renewable
15 every three years on or before the birthdate of the holder. The
16 department shall renew a certificate of competency if the applicant:
17 (a) Pays the renewal fee assessed by the department; and (b) during
18 the past two years has completed sixteen hours of continuing
19 education approved by the department with the advice of the advisory
20 board, including four hours related to electrical safety. For holders
21 of the specialty plumber certificate under RCW 18.106.010(10)(c), the

1 continuing education may comprise both electrical and plumbing
2 education with a minimum of twelve of the required twenty-four hours
3 of continuing education in plumbing. If a person fails to renew the
4 certificate by the renewal date, he or she must pay a doubled fee. If
5 the person does not renew the certificate within ninety days of the
6 renewal date, he or she must retake the examination and pay the
7 examination fee.

8 The journey level plumber and specialty plumber certificates of
9 competency, the medical gas piping installer endorsement, and the
10 temporary permit provided for in this chapter grant the holder the
11 right to engage in the work of plumbing as a journey level plumber,
12 specialty plumber, or medical gas piping installer, in accordance
13 with their provisions throughout the state and within any of its
14 political subdivisions on any job or any employment without
15 additional proof of competency or any other license or permit or fee
16 to engage in the work. This section does not preclude employees from
17 adhering to a union security clause in any employment where such a
18 requirement exists.

19 (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program
20 approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the plumbing construction trade
21 or who is learning the plumbing construction trade may work in the
22 plumbing construction trade if supervised by a certified journey
23 level plumber or a certified specialty plumber in that plumber's
24 specialty. All apprentices and individuals learning the plumbing
25 construction trade shall obtain a plumbing training certificate from
26 the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to learn
27 the plumbing construction trade while under the direct supervision of
28 a journey level plumber or a specialty plumber working in his or her
29 specialty. The certificate may include a photograph of the holder.
30 The holder of the plumbing training certificate shall renew the
31 certificate annually. At the time of renewal, the holder shall
32 provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's
33 employers in the plumbing construction industry for the previous year
34 and the number of hours worked for each employer. An annual fee shall
35 be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The
36 department shall set the fee by rule. The fee shall cover but not
37 exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee
38 certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.

39 (3) Any person who has been issued a plumbing training
40 certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under

1 supervision. Supervision shall consist of a (~~(person)~~) trainee being
2 (~~(on the same job site and)~~) under the control of either a journey
3 level plumber or an appropriate specialty plumber who has an
4 applicable certificate of competency issued under this chapter.
5 Either a journey level plumber or an appropriate specialty plumber
6 shall be (a) available via mobile phone or a similar device, in a
7 manner which will allow both audio and visual direction to the
8 trainee from the supervising plumber; or (b) on the same job site as
9 the noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of
10 each working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter. The ratio
11 of noncertified individuals to certified journey level or specialty
12 plumbers working on a job site shall be: (~~(+a)~~) (i) Not more than
13 two noncertified plumbers working on any one job site for every
14 certified specialty plumber or journey level plumber working as a
15 specialty plumber; and (~~(+b)~~) (ii) not more than one noncertified
16 plumber working on any one job site for every certified journey level
17 plumber working as a journey level plumber.

18 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has
19 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved
20 apprenticeship program or in a technical school program in the
21 plumbing construction trade in a school approved by the workforce
22 training and education coordinating board, may work without direct
23 on-site supervision during the last six months of meeting the
24 practical experience requirements of this chapter.

25 (4) An individual who has a current training certificate and who
26 has successfully completed or is currently enrolled in a medical gas
27 piping installer training course approved by the department may work
28 on medical gas piping systems if the individual is under the direct
29 supervision of a certified medical gas piping installer who holds a
30 medical gas piping installer endorsement one hundred percent of a
31 working day on a one-to-one ratio.

32 (5) The training to become a certified plumber must include not
33 less than sixteen hours of classroom training established by the
34 director with the advice of the advisory board. The classroom
35 training must include, but not be limited to, electrical wiring
36 safety, grounding, bonding, and other related items plumbers need to
37 know to work under RCW 19.28.091.

1 (6) All persons who are certified plumbers before January 1,
2 2003, are deemed to have received the classroom training required in
3 subsection (5) of this section.

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