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**HOUSE BILL 1594**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Goehner and Springer

Read first time 01/25/23. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing certain types of maintenance  
2 experience to substitute for work experience required to be eligible  
3 to take the examination for the residential maintenance specialty  
4 electrician certificate; and amending RCW 19.28.191.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2020 c 153 s 26 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review  
9 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to  
10 take an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey  
11 level electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty  
12 electrician certificate of competency.

13 (a) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journey  
14 level electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
15 possessed a valid journey level electrician certificate of competency  
16 for four years.

17 (b) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty  
18 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
19 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in  
20 the specialty applied for, for two years.

1 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey level  
2 certificate of competency, the applicant must have successfully  
3 completed an apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW  
4 or equivalent apprenticeship program approved by the department for  
5 the electrical construction trade in which the applicant worked in  
6 the electrical construction trade for a minimum of eight thousand  
7 hours. Four thousand of the hours shall be in industrial or  
8 commercial electrical installation under the supervision of a master  
9 journey level electrician or journey level electrician and not more  
10 than a total of four thousand hours in all specialties under the  
11 supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level  
12 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that  
13 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that  
14 electrician's specialty. Specialty electricians with less than a four  
15 thousand hour work experience requirement cannot credit the time  
16 required to obtain that specialty towards qualifying to become a  
17 journey level electrician. The holder of a specialty electrician  
18 certificate of competency with a four thousand hour work experience  
19 requirement shall be allowed to credit the work experience required  
20 to obtain that certificate towards apprenticeship requirements for  
21 qualifying to take the examination for a journey level electrician  
22 certificate of competency.

23 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty  
24 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have:

25 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC  
26 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC  
27 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),  
28 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),  
29 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),  
30 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the  
31 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level  
32 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician  
33 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
34 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of four  
35 thousand hours;

36 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by  
37 the department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as  
38 determined by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty  
39 as determined by the department in rule, the pump and irrigation  
40 specialty other than as defined by (d)(i) of this subsection or

1 domestic pump specialty as determined by the department in rule, or a  
2 specialty other than the designated specialties in (d)(i) of this  
3 subsection for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set  
4 by rule by the department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance  
5 specialty is limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for  
6 lighting branch circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes  
7 for other circuits excluding the replacement or repair of circuit  
8 breakers. The department may alter the scope of work for the  
9 restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule. The initial  
10 period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a  
11 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master  
12 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or  
13 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After  
14 this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination.  
15 However, an applicant seeking to take the specialty examination for  
16 residential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(i)) may  
17 substitute four years of direct maintenance experience in property  
18 management for the initial period of 100 percent supervised work that  
19 is required before being eligible to take the examination. The  
20 applicant must provide proof to the department with a notarized  
21 verification letter documenting the work experience the applicant has  
22 accrued in direct maintenance experience in property management. If  
23 the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised  
24 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A  
25 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the  
26 appliance repair specialty or in a specialty other than the  
27 designated specialties in (d)(i) of this subsection, however, until  
28 the person has worked a minimum of two thousand hours in that  
29 specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department;

30 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program  
31 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the  
32 electrical construction trade; or

33 (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and  
34 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be  
35 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same  
36 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW  
37 18.106.040(1)(d). After meeting the training requirements provided in  
38 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon  
39 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as  
40 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a

1 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying  
2 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate  
3 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty  
4 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(14)(c) with the  
5 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in  
6 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional  
7 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this  
8 subsection. The department shall establish a single document for  
9 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as  
10 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification  
11 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW  
12 18.106.010(14)(c), showing that the individual has received both  
13 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be  
14 imposed.

15 (e) Any applicant for a journey level electrician certificate of  
16 competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the  
17 electrical construction trade at public community or technical  
18 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade  
19 schools licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating  
20 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to two years of the  
21 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience  
22 under a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician  
23 required under the apprenticeship program. The applicant shall obtain  
24 the additional two years of work experience required in industrial or  
25 commercial electrical installation prior to the beginning, or after  
26 the completion, of the technical school program. Any applicant who  
27 has received training in the electrical construction trade in the  
28 armed service of the United States may be eligible to apply armed  
29 service work experience towards qualification to complete an  
30 apprenticeship and take the examination for the journey level  
31 electrician certificate of competency.

32 (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of  
33 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a  
34 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public  
35 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally  
36 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce  
37 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,  
38 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school  
39 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level  
40 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician

1 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
2 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has  
3 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed  
4 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service  
5 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an  
6 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

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

13 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of three  
14 thousand or more hours.

15 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of two  
16 thousand four hundred hours of student/instructor contact time must  
17 be technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope of  
18 work of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time  
19 includes lecture and in-school lab.

20 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that  
21 accepts more than one thousand hours transferred from another  
22 school's program.

23 (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than  
24 two years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time  
25 hours proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more  
26 than fifty percent of the work experience required to attain  
27 certification.

28 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not  
29 be credited towards qualification for journey level electrician  
30 unless the training program is used to gain qualification for a four  
31 thousand hour electrical specialty.

32 (h) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

33 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the  
34 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.  
35 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the  
36 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
37 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating  
38 instructions for taking the examination.

39 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than  
40 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test

1 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after  
2 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of  
3 this section, "full-time basis" means two thousand hours.

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