

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2053

Chapter 240, Laws of 1992

52nd Legislature
1992 Regular Session

UTILITY EMPLOYEES--EXEMPTION FROM ELECTRICAL
LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/11/92

Passed by the House March 12, 1992
Yeas 92 Nays 4

JOE KING

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 12, 1992
Yeas 39 Nays 8

JOEL PRITCHARD

President of the Senate

Approved April 2, 1992

BOOTH GARDNER

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Alan Thompson, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2053** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

ALAN THOMPSON

Chief Clerk

FILED

April 2, 1992 - 5:50 p.m.

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2053

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 1992 Regular Session

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Heavey, Fuhrman, G. Fisher, Grant, D. Sommers, Cooper, Mielke, Wood, Orr, Day, Ludwig and Silver. Read first time February 20, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to electrical licensing exemptions; and amending
2 RCW 19.28.200, 19.28.210, and 19.28.610.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.200 and 1980 c 30 s 15 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) No license under the provision of this chapter shall be
7 required from any utility or any person, firm, partnership,
8 corporation, or other entity employed by a utility because of work in
9 connection with the installation ((and/)), repair, or maintenance of
10 lines ((or)), wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by or under the
11 control of a utility and used for transmission or distribution of
12 electricity from the source of supply to the point of contact at the
13 premises and/or property to be supplied ((, or for work in installing or
14 maintaining or repairing on the premises of customers,)) and service
15 connections and meters ((,)) and other apparatus or appliances used in

1 the measurement of the consumption of electricity by the customer~~((s,~~
2 ~~or for work in connection with))~~.

3 (2) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
4 required from any utility because of work in connection with the
5 installation, repair, or maintenance of the following:

6 (a) Lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment used in the lighting of
7 streets, alleys, ways, or public areas or squares~~((,~~~~or for the work of~~
8 ~~installing, maintaining or repairing wires, apparatus or appliances~~
9 ~~used in their business, or in making or distributing electricity, upon~~
10 ~~the property owned or operated and managed by them; or for))~~;

11 (b) Lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment owned by a commercial,
12 industrial, or public institution customer that are an integral part of
13 a transmission or distribution system, either overhead or underground,
14 providing service to such customer and located outside the building or
15 structure: PROVIDED, That a utility does not initiate the sale of
16 services to perform such work;

17 (c) Lines and wires, together with ancillary apparatus, and
18 equipment, owned by a customer that is an independent power producer
19 who has entered into an agreement for the sale of electricity to a
20 utility and that are used in transmitting electricity from an
21 electrical generating unit located on premises used by such customer to
22 the point of interconnection with the utility's system.

23 (3) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity
24 licensed under RCW 19.28.120 may enter into a contract with a utility
25 for the performance of work under subsection (2) of this section.

26 (4) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
27 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
28 entity because of the work of installing and repairing ignition or
29 lighting systems for motor vehicles~~((,~~~~or as))~~.

1 (5) No license under the provisions of this chapter shall be
2 required from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
3 entity because of work in connection with the installation, repair, or
4 maintenance of wires and equipment, and installations thereof, exempted
5 in RCW 19.28.010.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.210 and 1989 c 344 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) The director shall cause an inspector to inspect all wiring,
9 appliances, devices, and equipment to which this chapter applies.
10 Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed as providing any
11 authority for any subdivision of government to adopt by ordinance any
12 provisions contained or provided for in this chapter except those
13 pertaining to cities and towns pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(2).

14 (2) Upon request, electrical inspections will be made by the
15 department within forty-eight hours, excluding holidays, Saturdays, and
16 Sundays. If, upon written request, the electrical inspector fails to
17 make an electrical inspection within twenty-four hours, the serving
18 utility may immediately connect electrical power to the installation if
19 the necessary electrical work permit is displayed: PROVIDED, That if
20 the request is for an electrical inspection that relates to a mobile
21 home installation, the applicant shall provide proof of a current
22 building permit issued by the local government agency authorized to
23 issue such permits as a prerequisite for inspection approval or
24 connection of electrical power to the mobile home.

25 (3) Whenever the installation of any wiring, device, appliance, or
26 equipment is not in accordance with this chapter, or is in such a
27 condition as to be dangerous to life or property, the person, firm,
28 partnership, corporation, or other entity owning, using, or operating
29 it shall be notified by the department and shall within fifteen days,

1 or such further reasonable time as may upon request be granted, make
2 such repairs and changes as are required to remove the danger to life
3 or property and to make it conform to this chapter. The director,
4 through the inspector, is hereby empowered to disconnect or order the
5 discontinuance of electrical service to conductors or equipment that
6 are found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition and not in
7 accordance with this chapter. Upon making a disconnection the
8 inspector shall attach a notice stating that the conductors have been
9 found dangerous to life or property and are not in accordance with this
10 chapter. It is unlawful for any person to reconnect such defective
11 conductors or equipment without the approval of the department, and
12 until the conductors and equipment have been placed in a safe and
13 secure condition, and in a condition that complies with this chapter.

14 (4) The director, through the electrical inspector, has the right
15 during reasonable hours to enter into and upon any building or premises
16 in the discharge of his or her official duties for the purpose of
17 making any inspection or test of the installation of new construction
18 or altered electrical wiring, electrical devices, equipment, or
19 material contained in or on the buildings or premises. No electrical
20 wiring or equipment subject to this chapter may be concealed until it
21 has been approved by the inspector making the inspection.

22 (5) Persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, or other entities
23 making electrical installations shall obtain inspection and approval
24 from an authorized representative of the department as required by this
25 chapter before requesting the electric utility to connect to the
26 installations. Electric utilities may connect to the installations if
27 approval is clearly indicated by certification of the electrical work
28 permit required to be affixed to each installation or by equivalent
29 means, except that increased or relocated services may be reconnected
30 immediately at the discretion of the utility before approval if an

1 electrical work permit is displayed. The permits shall be furnished
2 upon payment of the fee to the department.

3 (6) The director, subject to the recommendations and approval of
4 the board, shall set by rule a schedule of license and electrical work
5 permit fees that will cover the costs of administration and enforcement
6 of this chapter. The rules shall be adopted in accordance with the
7 administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. No fee may be charged
8 for plug-in mobile homes, recreational vehicles, or portable
9 appliances.

10 (7) Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the inspection of any
11 wiring, appliance, device, or equipment, or installations thereof, by
12 any utility or by any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other
13 entity employed by a utility in connection with the installation,
14 repair, or maintenance of lines, wires, apparatus, or equipment owned
15 by or under the control of the utility. All work covered by the
16 national electric code not exempted by the 1981 edition of the national
17 electric code 90-2(B)(5) shall be inspected by the department.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.610 and 1986 c 156 s 16 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 Nothing in RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620 shall be construed to
21 require that a person obtain a license or a certified electrician in
22 order to do electrical work at his or her residence or farm or place of
23 business or on other property owned by him: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That
24 nothing in RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620 shall be intended to
25 derogate from or dispense with the requirements of any valid electrical
26 code enacted by a city or town pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(2), except
27 that no code shall require the holder of a certificate of competency to
28 demonstrate any additional proof of competency or obtain any other
29 license or pay any fee in order to engage in the electrical

1 construction trade: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That RCW 19.28.510 through
2 19.28.620 shall not apply to common carriers subject to Part I of the
3 Interstate Commerce Act, nor to their officers and employees: AND
4 PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620 shall
5 be deemed to apply to the installation or maintenance of telephone,
6 telegraph, radio, or television wires and equipment; nor to any
7 electrical utility or its employees(~~(7)~~) in the installation(~~(8)~~),
8 repair, and maintenance of electrical wiring, circuits, and equipment
9 by or for the utility, or comprising a part of its plants, lines or
10 systems. The licensing provisions of RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620
11 shall not apply to:

12 (1) Persons making electrical installations on their own property
13 ((or to));

14 (2) Regularly employed employees working on the premises of their
15 employer; or

16 (3) Employees of an employer while the employer is performing
17 utility type work of the nature described in RCW 19.28.200 so long as
18 such employees have registered in the state of Washington with or
19 graduated from a state-approved outside lineman apprenticeship course
20 that is recognized by the department and that qualifies a person to
21 perform such work:

22 AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in RCW 19.28.510 through 19.28.620
23 shall be construed to restrict the right of any householder to assist
24 or receive assistance from a friend, neighbor, relative or other person
25 when none of the individuals doing the electrical installation hold
26 themselves out as engaged in the trade or business of electrical
27 installations. Nothing precludes any person who is exempt from the
28 licensing requirements of this chapter under this section from
29 obtaining a journeyman or specialty certificate of competency if they
30 otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter.

Passed the House March 12, 1992.
Passed the Senate March 12, 1992.
Approved by the Governor April 2, 1992.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 2, 1992.