
SENATE BILL 5906

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1993 Regular Session

By Senators Moore, Newhouse, Wojahn, Amondson and Hochstatter

Read first time 02/24/93. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to electrical inspection standards; and amending
2 RCW 19.28.005, 19.28.010, and 19.28.060.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.005 and 1988 c 81 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

7 (1) "Administrator" means a person designated by an electrical
8 contractor to supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance
9 with the rules adopted under this chapter.

10 (2) "Board" means the electrical board under RCW 19.28.065.

11 (3) "Chapter" means chapter 19.28 RCW.

12 (4) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

13 (5) "Director" means the director of the department or the
14 director's designee.

15 (6) "Electrical construction trade" includes but is not limited to
16 installing or maintaining electrical wires and equipment that are used
17 for light, heat, or power and installing and maintaining remote
18 control, signaling, power limited, or communication circuits or
19 systems.

1 (7) "Electrical contractor" means a person, firm, partnership,
2 corporation, or other entity that offers to undertake, undertakes,
3 submits a bid for, or does the work of installing or maintaining wires
4 or equipment that convey electrical current.

5 (8) "Equipment" means any equipment or apparatus that directly
6 uses, conducts, or is operated by electricity but does not mean plug-in
7 household appliances.

8 (9) "Industrial control panel" means a factory-wired or user-wired
9 assembly of industrial control equipment such as motor controllers,
10 switches, relays, power supplies, computers, cathode ray tubes,
11 transducers, and auxiliary devices. The panel may include disconnect
12 means and motor branch circuit protective devices.

13 (10) "Journeyman electrician" means a person who has been issued a
14 journeyman electrician certificate of competency by the department.

15 (~~(10)~~) (11) "Specialty electrician" means a person who has been
16 issued a specialty electrician certificate of competency by the
17 department.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.010 and 1992 c 79 s 2 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 (1) All wires and equipment, and installations thereof, that convey
21 electric current and installations of equipment to be operated by
22 electric current, in, on, or about buildings or structures, except for
23 telephone, telegraph, radio, and television wires and equipment, and
24 television antenna installations, signal strength amplifiers, and
25 coaxial installations pertaining thereto shall be in strict conformity
26 with this chapter, the statutes of the state of Washington, and the
27 rules issued by the department, and shall be in conformity with
28 approved methods of construction for safety to life and property. All
29 wires and equipment that fall within section 90.2(b)(5) of the National
30 Electrical Code, 1981 edition, are exempt from the requirements of this
31 chapter. The regulations and articles in the National Electrical Code,
32 (~~as approved by the American Standards Association, and in~~) the
33 national electrical safety code, (~~as approved by the American~~
34 ~~Standards Association,~~) and other installation and safety regulations
35 approved by the (~~American Standards Association~~) national fire
36 protection association, as modified or supplemented by rules issued by
37 the department in furtherance of safety to life and property under
38 authority hereby granted, shall be prima facie evidence of the approved

1 methods of construction. All materials, devices, appliances, and
2 equipment used in such installations shall be of a type that conforms
3 to applicable standards or be indicated as acceptable by the
4 established standards of (~~the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. or~~
5 ~~ether~~) any electrical product testing ((laboratories)) laboratory
6 which ((are)) is accredited by the department. Industrial control
7 panels, utilization equipment, and their components do not need to be
8 listed, labeled, or otherwise indicated as acceptable by an accredited
9 electrical product testing laboratory unless specifically required by
10 the National Electrical Code, 1993 edition.

11 (2) Residential buildings or structures moved into or within a
12 county, city, or town are not required to comply with all of the
13 requirements of this chapter, if the original occupancy classification
14 of the building or structure is not changed as a result of the move.
15 This subsection shall not apply to residential buildings or structures
16 that are substantially remodeled or rehabilitated.

17 (3) This chapter shall not limit the authority or power of any city
18 or town to enact and enforce under authority given by law, any
19 ordinance, rule, or regulation requiring an equal, higher, or better
20 standard of construction and an equal, higher, or better standard of
21 materials, devices, appliances, and equipment than that required by
22 this chapter. A city or town shall require that its electrical
23 inspectors meet the qualifications provided for state electrical
24 inspectors in accordance with RCW 19.28.070. In a city or town having
25 an equal, higher, or better standard the installations, materials,
26 devices, appliances, and equipment shall be in accordance with the
27 ordinance, rule, or regulation of the city or town. Electrical
28 equipment associated with spas, hot tubs, swimming pools, and
29 hydromassage bathtubs shall not be offered for sale or exchange unless
30 the electrical equipment is certified as being in compliance with the
31 applicable product safety standard by bearing the certification mark of
32 an approved electrical products testing laboratory.

33 (4) Nothing in this chapter may be construed as permitting the
34 connection of any conductor of any electric circuit with a pipe that is
35 connected with or designed to be connected with a waterworks piping
36 system, without the consent of the person or persons legally
37 responsible for the operation and maintenance of the waterworks piping
38 system.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.060 and 1988 c 81 s 3 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) Prior to January 1st of each year, the director shall obtain an
4 authentic copy of the national electrical code (~~((as approved by the~~
5 ~~American Standards Association, and an authentic copy of any applicable~~
6 ~~regulations and standards of the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., or~~
7 ~~other electrical product testing laboratory which is accredited by the~~
8 ~~department prescribing rules, regulations, and standards for electrical~~
9 ~~materials, devices, appliances, and equipment, including any~~
10 ~~modifications and changes that have been made during the previous year~~
11 ~~in the rules, regulations, and standards))), latest revision. The
12 department, after consulting with the board and receiving the board's
13 recommendations, shall adopt reasonable rules in furtherance of safety
14 to life and property. All rules shall be kept on file by the
15 department. Compliance with the rules shall be prima facie evidence of
16 compliance with this chapter. The department upon request shall
17 deliver to all persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, or other
18 entities licensed under this chapter a copy of the rules.~~

19 (2) The department shall also obtain and keep on file an authentic
20 copy of any applicable regulations and standards of any electrical
21 product testing laboratory which is accredited by the department
22 prescribing rules, regulations, and standards for electrical materials,
23 devices, appliances, and equipment, including any modifications and
24 changes that have been made during the previous year.

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