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ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6630

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State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Honeyford, Rasmussen and Sheahan

Read first time 01/23/2002. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to certification of electricians; and amending RCW  
2 19.28.006, 19.28.041, 19.28.051, 19.28.061, 19.28.161, 19.28.191,  
3 19.28.201, 19.28.211, and 19.28.241.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.006 and 2001 c 211 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this subchapter.

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

11 (2) "Board" means the electrical board under RCW 19.28.311.

12 (3) "Chapter" or "subchapter" means the subchapter, if no chapter  
13 number is referenced.

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

15 (5) "Director" means the director of the department or the  
16 director's designee.

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

1 control, signaling, power limited, or communication circuits or  
2 systems.

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

7 (8) "Equipment" means any equipment or apparatus that directly  
8 uses, conducts, or is operated by electricity but does not mean plug-in  
9 (~~household~~) appliances or equipment as determined by the department  
10 by rule.

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

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

18 (11) "Master electrician" means either a master journeyman  
19 electrician or master specialty electrician.

20 (12) "Master journeyman electrician" means a person who has been  
21 issued a master journeyman electrician certificate of competency by the  
22 department and who may be designated by an electrical contractor to  
23 supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance with rules  
24 adopted under this chapter.

25 (13) "Master specialty electrician" means a person who has been  
26 issued a specialty electrician certificate of competency by the  
27 department and who may be designated by an electrical contractor to  
28 supervise electrical work and electricians in accordance with rules  
29 adopted under this chapter.

30 (14) "Specialty electrician" means a person who has been issued a  
31 specialty electrician certificate of competency by the department.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.041 and 2001 c 211 s 3 are each amended to read  
33 as follows:

34 (1) It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation,  
35 or other entity to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of  
36 installing or maintaining wires or equipment to convey electric  
37 current, or installing or maintaining equipment to be operated by  
38 electric current as it pertains to the electrical industry, without

1 having an unrevoked, unsuspended, and unexpired electrical contractor  
2 license, issued by the department in accordance with this chapter. All  
3 electrical contractor licenses expire twenty-four calendar months  
4 following the day of their issue. The department may issue an  
5 electrical contractors license for a period of less than twenty-four  
6 months only for the purpose of equalizing the number of electrical  
7 contractor licenses that expire each month. Application for an  
8 electrical contractor license shall be made in writing to the  
9 department, accompanied by the required fee. The application shall  
10 state:

11 (a) The name and address of the applicant; in case of firms or  
12 partnerships, the names of the individuals composing the firm or  
13 partnership; in case of corporations, the names of the managing  
14 officials thereof;

15 (b) The location of the place of business of the applicant and the  
16 name under which the business is conducted;

17 (c) Employer social security number;

18 (d) Evidence of workers' compensation coverage for the applicant's  
19 employees working in Washington, as follows:

20 (i) The applicant's industrial insurance account number issued by  
21 the department;

22 (ii) The applicant's self-insurer number issued by the department;  
23 or

24 (iii) For applicants domiciled in a state or province of Canada  
25 subject to an agreement entered into under RCW 51.12.120(7), as  
26 permitted by the agreement, filing a certificate of coverage issued by  
27 the agency that administers the workers' compensation law in the  
28 applicant's state or province of domicile certifying that the applicant  
29 has secured the payment of compensation under the other state's or  
30 province's workers' compensation law;

31 (e) Employment security department number;

32 (f) State excise tax registration number;

33 (g) Unified business identifier (UBI) account number may be  
34 substituted for the information required by (d) of this subsection if  
35 the applicant will not employ employees in Washington, and by (e) and  
36 (f) of this subsection; and

37 (h) Whether a general or specialty electrical contractor license is  
38 sought and, if the latter, the type of specialty. Electrical  
39 contractor specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential,

1 ((~~domestic appliances,~~)) pump and irrigation, limited energy system,  
2 signs, nonresidential maintenance, and a combination specialty. A  
3 general electrical contractor license shall grant to the holder the  
4 right to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of installing or  
5 maintaining wires or equipment to carry electric current, and  
6 installing or maintaining equipment, or installing or maintaining  
7 material to fasten or insulate such wires or equipment to be operated  
8 by electric current, in the state of Washington. A specialty  
9 electrical contractor license shall grant to the holder a limited right  
10 to engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of installing or  
11 maintaining wires or equipment to carry electrical current, and  
12 installing or maintaining equipment; or installing or maintaining  
13 material to fasten or insulate such wires or equipment to be operated  
14 by electric current in the state of Washington as expressly allowed by  
15 the license.

16 (2) The department may verify the workers' compensation coverage  
17 information provided by the applicant under subsection (1)(d) of this  
18 section, including but not limited to information regarding the  
19 coverage of an individual employee of the applicant. If coverage is  
20 provided under the laws of another state, the department may notify the  
21 other state that the applicant is employing employees in Washington.

22 (3) The application for ((a)) an electrical contractor license  
23 shall be accompanied by a bond in the sum of four thousand dollars with  
24 the state of Washington named as obligee in the bond, with good and  
25 sufficient surety, to be approved by the department. The bond shall at  
26 all times be kept in full force and effect, and any cancellation or  
27 revocation thereof, or withdrawal of the surety therefrom, suspends the  
28 license issued to the principal until a new bond has been filed and  
29 approved as provided in this section. Upon approval of a bond, the  
30 department shall on the next business day deposit the fee accompanying  
31 the application in the electrical license fund and shall file the bond  
32 in the office. The department shall upon request furnish to any  
33 person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity a certified  
34 copy of the bond upon the payment of a fee that the department shall  
35 set by rule. The fee shall cover but not exceed the cost of furnishing  
36 the certified copy. The bond shall be conditioned that in any  
37 installation or maintenance of wires or equipment to convey electrical  
38 current, and equipment to be operated by electrical current, the  
39 principal will comply with the provisions of this chapter and with any

1 electrical ordinance, building code, or regulation of a city or town  
2 adopted pursuant to RCW 19.28.010(3) that is in effect at the time of  
3 entering into a contract. The bond shall be conditioned further that  
4 the principal will pay for all labor, including employee benefits, and  
5 material furnished or used upon the work, taxes and contributions to  
6 the state of Washington, and all damages that may be sustained by any  
7 person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity due to a  
8 failure of the principal to make the installation or maintenance in  
9 accordance with this chapter or any applicable ordinance, building  
10 code, or regulation of a city or town adopted pursuant to RCW  
11 19.28.010(3). In lieu of the surety bond required by this section the  
12 license applicant may file with the department a cash deposit or other  
13 negotiable security acceptable to the department. If the license  
14 applicant has filed a cash deposit, the department shall deposit the  
15 funds in a special trust savings account in a commercial bank, mutual  
16 savings bank, or savings and loan association and shall pay annually to  
17 the depositor the interest derived from the account.

18 (4) The department shall issue general or specialty electrical  
19 contractor licenses to applicants meeting all of the requirements of  
20 this chapter. The provisions of this chapter relating to the licensing  
21 of any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity  
22 including the requirement of a bond with the state of Washington named  
23 as obligee therein and the collection of a fee therefor, are exclusive,  
24 and no political subdivision of the state of Washington may require or  
25 issue any licenses or bonds or charge any fee for the same or a similar  
26 purpose. No person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity  
27 holding more than one specialty contractor license under this chapter  
28 may be required to pay an annual fee for more than one such license or  
29 to post more than one four thousand dollar bond, equivalent cash  
30 deposit, or other negotiable security.

31 (5) To obtain a general or specialty electrical contractor license  
32 the applicant must designate an individual who currently possesses  
33 ((an)) a valid master journeyman electrician's certificate of  
34 competency, valid master specialty electrician's certificate of  
35 competency in the specialty for which application has been made, valid  
36 administrator's certificate as a general electrical contractor  
37 administrator or as a specialty electrical contractor administrator in  
38 the specialty for which application has been made.

1       (6) Administrator certificate specialties include but are not  
2 limited to: Residential, (~~domestic, appliance,~~) pump and irrigation,  
3 limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance, and  
4 combination specialty. To obtain an administrator's certificate an  
5 individual must pass an examination as set forth in RCW 19.28.051  
6 unless the applicant was a licensed electrical contractor at any time  
7 during 1974. Applicants who were electrical contractors licensed by  
8 the state of Washington at any time during 1974 are entitled to receive  
9 a general electrical contractor administrator's certificate without  
10 examination if the applicants apply prior to January 1, 1984. The  
11 board of electrical examiners shall certify to the department the names  
12 of all persons who are entitled to either a general or specialty  
13 electrical contractor administrator's certificate.

14       **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.051 and 2001 c 211 s 4 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16       It shall be the purpose and function of the board to establish, in  
17 addition to a general electrical contractors' license, such  
18 classifications of specialty electrical contractors' licenses as it  
19 deems appropriate with regard to individual sections pertaining to  
20 state adopted codes in this chapter. In addition, it shall be the  
21 purpose and function of the board to establish and administer written  
22 examinations for general electrical administrators' certificates and  
23 the various specialty electrical administrators' certificates.  
24 Examinations shall be designed to reasonably (~~insure~~) ensure that  
25 general and specialty electrical administrators' certificate holders  
26 are competent to engage in and supervise the work covered by this  
27 statute and their respective licenses. The examinations shall include  
28 questions from the following categories to assure proper safety and  
29 protection for the general public: (1) Safety, (2) state electrical  
30 code, and (3) electrical theory. The department with the consent of  
31 the board shall be permitted to enter into a contract with a  
32 professional testing agency to develop, administer, and score these  
33 examinations. A person may take the administrator's examination as  
34 many times as necessary without limit. The fee for the examination may  
35 be set by the department in its contract with the professional testing  
36 agency. The department may direct that the applicant pay the fee to  
37 the professional testing agency. The fee shall cover but not exceed  
38 the costs of preparing and administering the examination. It shall be

1 the further purpose and function of this board to advise the director  
2 as to the need of additional electrical inspectors and compliance  
3 officers to be utilized by the director on either a full-time or part-  
4 time employment basis and to carry out the duties enumerated in RCW  
5 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 as well as generally advise the department  
6 on all matters relative to RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271.

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.28.061 and 1996 c 241 s 3 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 (1) Each applicant for an electrical contractor's license, other  
10 than an individual, shall designate a supervisory employee or member of  
11 the firm to take the required master electrician's or administrator's  
12 examination. Effective July 1, 1987, a supervisory employee designated  
13 as the electrical contractor's master electrician or administrator  
14 shall be a full-time supervisory employee. This person shall be  
15 designated as master electrician or administrator under the license.  
16 No person may concurrently qualify as master electrician or  
17 administrator for more than one contractor. If the relationship of the  
18 master electrician or administrator with the electrical contractor is  
19 terminated, the contractor's license is void within ninety days unless  
20 another master electrician or administrator is qualified by the board.  
21 However, if the master electrician or administrator dies or is  
22 otherwise incapacitated, the contractor's license is void within one  
23 hundred eighty days unless another master electrician or administrator  
24 is qualified by the board. (~~(A certificate issued under this section~~  
25 ~~is valid for two years from the nearest birthdate of the administrator,~~  
26 ~~unless revoked or suspended, and further is nontransferable.)) The  
27 contractor must notify the department in writing within ten days if the  
28 master electrician's or administrator's relationship with the  
29 contractor terminates due to the master electrician's or  
30 administrator's death or incapacitation.~~

31 (2) The department must issue an administrator's certificate to all  
32 applicants who have passed the examination provided in RCW 19.28.051  
33 and this section, and who have complied with the rules adopted under  
34 this chapter. The administrator's certificate must bear the date of  
35 issuance, expires on the holder's birthday, and is nontransferable.  
36 The certificate must be renewed every three years, upon application, on  
37 or before the holder's birthday.

1       (a) If the certificate holder demonstrates to the department that  
2 he or she has satisfactorily completed an annual eight-hour continuing  
3 education course, the certificate may be renewed by appropriate  
4 application without examination unless the certificate has been  
5 revoked, suspended, or not renewed within ninety days after the  
6 expiration date.

7       (b) The contents and requirements for satisfactory completion of  
8 the continuing education course must be determined by the director and  
9 approved by the board.

10       (c) The department must accept proof of a certificate holder's  
11 satisfactory completion of a continuing education course offered in  
12 another state as meeting the requirements for maintaining a current  
13 Washington state certificate if the department is satisfied the course  
14 is comparable in nature to that required in Washington state for  
15 maintaining a current certificate.

16       (3) A fee must be assessed for each administrator's certificate and  
17 for each renewal. An individual holding more than one administrator's  
18 certificate under this chapter is not required to pay fees for more  
19 than one certificate. If the certificate is not renewed before the  
20 expiration date, the individual must pay twice the usual fee. The  
21 department must set the fees by rule for issuance and renewal of a  
22 certificate. The fees must cover, but not exceed, the costs of issuing  
23 the certificates and of administering and enforcing the electrician  
24 certification requirements of this chapter.

25       (4) The department may deny an application for an administrator's  
26 certificate for up to two years if the applicant's previous  
27 administrator's certificate has been revoked for a serious violation  
28 and all appeals concerning the revocation have been exhausted. For the  
29 purposes of this section only, a serious violation is a violation that  
30 presents imminent danger to the public. ((The certificate may be  
31 renewed for a two year period without examination by appropriate  
32 application unless the certificate has been revoked, suspended, or not  
33 renewed within ninety days after the expiration date. If the  
34 certificate is not renewed before the expiration date, the individual  
35 shall pay twice the usual fee. An individual holding more than one  
36 administrator's certificate under this chapter shall not be required to  
37 pay annual fees for more than one certificate. A person may take the  
38 administrator's test as many times as necessary without limit.

39       ~~(2))~~ (5) The designated master electrician or administrator shall:



1 (a) Be a member of the firm or a supervisory employee and shall be  
2 available during working hours to carry out the duties of an  
3 administrator under this section;

4 (b) Ensure that all electrical work complies with the electrical  
5 installation laws and rules of the state;

6 (c) Ensure that the proper electrical safety procedures are used;

7 (d) Ensure that all electrical labels, permits, and licenses  
8 required to perform electrical work are used;

9 (e) See that corrective notices issued by an inspecting authority  
10 are complied with; and

11 (f) Notify the department in writing within ten days if the master  
12 electrician or administrator terminates the relationship with the  
13 electrical contractor.

14 ((+3)) (6) The department shall not by rule change the  
15 administrator's duties under subsection ((+2)) (5) of this section.

16 **Sec. 5.** RCW 19.28.161 and 1997 c 309 s 1 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade  
19 without having a ((current)) valid master journeyman electrician  
20 certificate of competency, journeyman electrician certificate of  
21 competency, master specialty electrician certificate of competency, or  
22 a current specialty electrician certificate of competency issued by the  
23 department in accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of  
24 competency specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential,  
25 ((domestic appliances,)) pump and irrigation, limited energy system,  
26 signs, and nonresidential maintenance.

27 (2) A person who is indentured in an apprenticeship program  
28 approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade  
29 or who is learning the electrical construction trade may work in the  
30 electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified master  
31 journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty  
32 electrician in that electrician's specialty, or a certified specialty  
33 electrician in that electrician's specialty. All apprentices and  
34 individuals learning the electrical construction trade shall obtain an  
35 electrical training certificate from the department. The certificate  
36 shall authorize the holder to learn the electrical construction trade  
37 while under the direct supervision of a master journeyman electrician,  
38 journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that

1 electrician's specialty, or a specialty electrician working in ((his or  
2 her)) that electrician's specialty. The holder of the electrical  
3 training certificate shall renew the certificate ~~((annually))~~  
4 biennially. At the time of renewal, the holder shall provide the  
5 department with an accurate list of the holder's employers in the  
6 electrical construction industry for the previous year and the number  
7 of hours worked for each employer. ~~((An annual))~~ A biennial fee shall  
8 be charged for the issuance or renewal of the certificate. The  
9 department shall set the fee by rule. The fee shall cover but not  
10 exceed the cost of administering and enforcing the trainee  
11 certification and supervision requirements of this chapter.  
12 Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical construction trade  
13 shall have their electrical training certificates in their possession  
14 at all times that they are performing electrical work. They shall show  
15 their certificates to an authorized representative of the department at  
16 the representative's request.

17 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training  
18 certificate under this chapter may work if that person is under  
19 supervision. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same  
20 job site and under the control of either a certified master journeyman  
21 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician  
22 working in that electrician's specialty, or ((an appropriate)) a  
23 specialty electrician ((who has an applicable certificate of competency  
24 issued under this chapter. Either a journeyman electrician or an  
25 appropriate specialty electrician shall be on the same job site as the  
26 noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy five percent of each  
27 working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter)) working in that  
28 electrician's specialty.

29 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master  
30 journeymen electricians, journeymen electricians, master specialty  
31 electricians, or specialty electricians ((working)) on ((a)) any one  
32 job site ((shall be)) is as follows:

33 (a) When working as a specialty electrician, not more than two  
34 noncertified individuals ((working on any one job site)) for every  
35 certified master specialty electrician working in that electrician's  
36 specialty, specialty electrician working in that electrician's  
37 specialty, master journeyman electrician, or journeyman electrician  
38 ((working as a specialty electrician)), except that the ratio  
39 requirements are one certified master specialty electrician working in

1 that electrician's specialty, certified specialty electrician working  
2 in that electrician's specialty, certified master journeyman  
3 electrician, or certified journeyman electrician working as a specialty  
4 electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working as  
5 part of an electrical construction program at public community or  
6 technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or  
7 technical schools licensed by the work force training and education  
8 coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio  
9 requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction  
10 program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and advice  
11 from the electrical board; and

12 (b) When working as a journeyman electrician, not more than one  
13 noncertified individual ((working on any one job site)) for every  
14 certified master journeyman electrician or certified journeyman  
15 electrician, except that the ratio requirements shall be one certified  
16 master journeyman electrician or certified journeyman electrician to no  
17 more than four students enrolled in and working as part of an  
18 electrical construction program at public community or technical  
19 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or technical  
20 schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating  
21 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio requirements for  
22 students enrolled in an electrical construction program at a trade  
23 school, a trade school may receive input and advice from the electrical  
24 board.

25 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has  
26 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved  
27 apprenticeship program or in an electrical construction program at  
28 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally  
29 accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the work force  
30 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may  
31 work without direct on-site supervision during the last six months of  
32 meeting the practical experience requirements of this chapter.

33 (5) For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(a)),  
34 pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(b)(i)), sign  
35 (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(c)), limited energy (as specified  
36 in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(e)(i)), or nonresidential maintenance (as  
37 specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(f)(i)) specialties, either a master  
38 journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty  
39 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or an appropriate

1 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty must be  
2 on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a minimum of  
3 seventy-five percent of each working day. Other specialties must meet  
4 the requirements specified in RCW 19.28.191(1)(f)(ii). When the ratio  
5 of certified electricians to noncertified individuals on a job site is  
6 one certified electrician to three or four noncertified individuals the  
7 certified electrician must:

8 (a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals  
9 and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an  
10 electrical installation; and

11 (b) Be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a  
12 minimum of one hundred percent of each working day.

13 (6) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and attest to  
14 the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on behalf of  
15 the electrical contractor.

16 **Sec. 6.** RCW 19.28.191 and 1997 c 309 s 3 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review  
19 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to take  
20 an examination for the master journeyman electrician, journeyman  
21 electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty electrician  
22 certificate of competency.

23 (a) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid general  
24 administrator's certificate and possesses a valid journeyman  
25 electrician certificate of competency in effect for the previous four  
26 years may apply for a master journeyman electrician certificate of  
27 competency without examination.

28 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid  
29 specialty administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for,  
30 and possesses a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency,  
31 in the specialty applied for, for the previous two years may apply for  
32 a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without  
33 examination.

34 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journeyman  
35 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed  
36 a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency for four  
37 years.

1 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty  
2 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed  
3 a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the  
4 specialty applied for, for two years.

5 (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman  
6 certificate of competency the applicant must have:

7 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of  
8 ~~((four years))~~ eight thousand hours employed full time, of which ~~((two~~  
9 years)) four thousand hours shall be in industrial or commercial  
10 electrical installation under the supervision of a journeyman  
11 electrician and not more than a total of ~~((two years))~~ four thousand  
12 hours in all specialties under the supervision of a journeyman  
13 electrician or an appropriate specialty electrician. Specialty  
14 electricians with less than a four thousand hour work experience  
15 requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that specialty  
16 towards qualifying to become a journeyman electrician; or

17 (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved  
18 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.

19 ~~((b))~~ (f) To be eligible to take the examination ~~((to become))~~  
20 for a specialty electrician certificate of competency the applicant  
21 ~~((shall))~~ must have:

22 (i) Worked in ~~((that specialty of the electrical construction~~  
23 trade, under the supervision of a journeyman electrician or an  
24 appropriate specialty electrician, for a minimum of two years employed  
25 full time)) the residential, pump and irrigation, sign, limited energy,  
26 or nonresidential maintenance specialties of the electrical  
27 construction trade under the supervision of a master journeyman  
28 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician  
29 working in that electrician's specialty, or a specialty electrician  
30 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of four thousand  
31 hours; or

32 (ii) Worked in other than the designated specialties in (f)(i) of  
33 this subsection for a minimum of two thousand hours. A minimum of the  
34 initial ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the department, must  
35 be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a master journeyman  
36 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician  
37 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
38 working in that electrician's specialty. After the minimum full  
39 supervision period, a person may take the specialty examination. If

1 the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised for  
2 the balance of the two thousand hours required to attain certification;  
3 or

4 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program  
5 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the electrical  
6 construction trade.

7 ~~((e))~~ (g) Any applicant for a journeyman electrician certificate  
8 of competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the  
9 electrical construction trade at public community or technical  
10 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade  
11 schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating  
12 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two years of the  
13 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience  
14 under a master journeyman electrician or a journeyman electrician. The  
15 applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience  
16 required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to  
17 the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school  
18 program. ((Any applicant who has received training in the electrical  
19 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be  
20 eligible to take the examination for the certificate of competency.

21 ~~(d))~~ (h) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of  
22 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a  
23 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public  
24 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally  
25 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the work force  
26 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may  
27 substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for  
28 one year of work experience under a master journeyman electrician,  
29 journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that  
30 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that  
31 electrician's specialty.

32 (i) The department must determine whether hours of training and  
33 experience in the military or school program are in the electrical  
34 construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for hours of work  
35 experience. The department must use the following criteria for  
36 evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical training programs  
37 and work in the electrical construction trade:

38 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of three  
39 thousand or more hours of student/instructor contact time.

1       (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of two  
2 thousand four hundred hours of student/instructor contact time must be  
3 technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope of work  
4 of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time includes  
5 lecture, in-school lab, and may include off-site instructor-supervised  
6 electrical installation.

7       (iii) External intern programs must not be used to comply with the  
8 student/instructor contact hours requirement, but will be eligible for  
9 electrical trainee work experience credit if performed in accordance  
10 with this chapter.

11       (iv) The department may not allow credit for a program that accepts  
12 more than one thousand hours transferred from another school's program.

13       (v) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than two  
14 years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time hours  
15 proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more than  
16 fifty percent of the work experience required to attain certification.

17       (vi) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not be  
18 credited towards qualification for journeyman electrician unless the  
19 training program is used to gain qualification for a two-year  
20 electrical specialty.

21       (j) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

22       (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the  
23 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In  
24 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.  
25 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
26 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating  
27 the time and place for taking the examination.

28       **Sec. 7.** RCW 19.28.201 and 2001 c 211 s 13 are each amended to read  
29 as follows:

30       The department, in coordination with the board, shall prepare an  
31 examination to be administered to applicants for master journeyman  
32 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician, and  
33 specialty electrician certificates of competency.

34       The department, with the consent of the board, may enter into a  
35 contract with a professional testing agency to develop, administer, and  
36 score electrician certification examinations. The department may set  
37 the examination fee by contract with the professional testing agency.

1       The department must, at least four times annually, administer the  
2 examination to persons eligible to take it under RCW 19.28.191. The  
3 fee must cover, but not exceed, the costs of preparing and  
4 administering the examination.

5       The department must certify the results of the examination upon the  
6 terms and after such a period of time as the department, in cooperation  
7 with the board, deems necessary and proper.

8       (1)(a) The master electrician's certificates of competency  
9 examinations must include questions from the following categories to  
10 ensure proper safety and protection for the general public: (i)  
11 Safety; (ii) the state electrical code; and (iii) electrical theory.

12       (b) A person may take the master electrician examination as many  
13 times as necessary without limit. All applicants must, before taking  
14 the examination, pay the required examination fee to the agency  
15 administering the examination.

16       (2) The journeyman electrician and specialty electrician  
17 examinations shall be constructed to determine:

18       ~~((1))~~ (a) Whether the applicant possesses varied general  
19 knowledge of the technical information and practical procedures that  
20 are identified with the status of journeyman electrician or specialty  
21 electrician; and

22       ~~((2))~~ (b) Whether the applicant is sufficiently familiar with the  
23 applicable electrical codes and the rules of the department pertaining  
24 to electrical installations and electricians.

25       ~~((The department shall, at least four times annually, administer~~  
26 ~~the examination to persons eligible to take it under RCW 19.28.191. A~~  
27 ~~person may take the journeyman or specialty test as many times as~~  
28 ~~necessary without limit. All applicants shall, before taking the~~  
29 ~~examination, pay the required examination fee to the agency~~  
30 ~~administering the examination. The fee shall cover but not exceed the~~  
31 ~~costs of preparing and administering the examination.~~

32       ~~The department shall certify the results of the examination upon~~  
33 ~~such terms and after such a period of time as the department, in~~  
34 ~~cooperation with the board, deems necessary and proper.~~

35       ~~(3) The department upon the consent of the board may enter into a~~  
36 ~~contract with a professional testing agency to develop, administer, and~~  
37 ~~score journeyman and/or specialty electrician certification~~  
38 ~~examinations. The department may set the examination fee by contract~~  
39 ~~with the professional testing agency.))~~



1        A person may take the examination as many times as necessary  
2 without limit. All applicants must, before taking the examination, pay  
3 the required examination fee to the agency administering the  
4 examination.

5        **Sec. 8.** RCW 19.28.211 and 2001 c 211 s 14 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7        (1) The department shall issue a certificate of competency to all  
8 applicants who have passed the examination provided in RCW 19.28.201,  
9 and who have complied with RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 and the  
10 rules adopted under this chapter. The certificate shall bear the date  
11 of issuance, and shall expire on the holder's birthday. The  
12 certificate shall be renewed every three years, upon application, on or  
13 before the holder's birthdate. A fee shall be assessed for each  
14 certificate and for each annual renewal.

15        (2) If the certificate holder demonstrates to the department that  
16 he or she has satisfactorily completed an annual eight-hour continuing  
17 education course, the certificate may be renewed without examination by  
18 appropriate application unless the certificate has been revoked,  
19 suspended, or not renewed within ninety days after the expiration date.

20        (a) The contents and requirements for satisfactory completion of  
21 the continuing education course shall be determined by the director and  
22 approved by the board.

23        (b) The department shall accept proof of a certificate holder's  
24 satisfactory completion of a continuing education course offered in  
25 another state as meeting the requirements for maintaining a current  
26 Washington state certificate of competency if the department is  
27 satisfied the course is comparable in nature to that required in  
28 Washington state for maintaining a current certificate of competency.

29        (3) If the certificate is not renewed before the expiration date,  
30 the individual shall pay twice the usual fee. The department shall set  
31 the fees by rule for issuance and renewal of a certificate of  
32 competency. The fees shall cover but not exceed the costs of issuing  
33 the certificates and of administering and enforcing the electrician  
34 certification requirements of this chapter.

35        (4) The certificates of competency and temporary permits provided  
36 for in this chapter grant the holder the right to work in the  
37 electrical construction trade as a master electrician, journeyman  
38 electrician, or specialty electrician in accordance with their

1 provisions throughout the state and within any of its political  
2 subdivisions without additional proof of competency or any other  
3 license, permit, or fee to engage in such work.

4 **Sec. 9.** RCW 19.28.241 and 2001 c 211 s 17 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1)(a) The department may revoke any certificate of competency upon  
7 the following grounds:

8 ~~((a))~~ (i) The certificate was obtained through error or fraud;

9 ~~((b))~~ (ii) The holder thereof is judged to be incompetent to work  
10 in the electrical construction trade as a journeyman electrician or  
11 specialty electrician;

12 ~~((c))~~ (iii) The holder thereof has violated any of the provisions  
13 of ~~((RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271))~~ or any rule adopted under this  
14 chapter;

15 (iv) For commission of a serious violation that is defined as a  
16 violation that presents imminent danger to the public or property.

17 (b) The department may deny an application for a certificate of  
18 competency for up to two years if the applicant's previous certificate  
19 of competency has been revoked.

20 (2) Before any certificate of competency shall be revoked, the  
21 holder shall be given written notice of the department's intention to  
22 do so, mailed by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the  
23 holder's last known address. The notice shall enumerate the  
24 allegations against the holder, and shall give the holder the  
25 opportunity to request a hearing before the board. At the hearing, the  
26 department and the holder may produce witnesses and give testimony.  
27 The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.  
28 The board shall render its decision based upon the testimony and  
29 evidence presented, and shall notify the parties immediately upon  
30 reaching its decision. A majority of the board shall be necessary to  
31 render a decision.

32 (3) The department shall immediately suspend the license or  
33 certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW  
34 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person  
35 who is not in compliance with a support order. If the person has  
36 continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the  
37 suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic  
38 upon the department's receipt of a release issued by the department of

1 social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance  
2 with the order.

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