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HOUSE BILL 3127

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representative McMorris

Read first time 01/28/2004. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to evaluating armed service experience in  
2 specialized electrical fields; and reenacting and amending RCW  
3 19.28.191.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2003 c 399 s 601 and 2003 c 211 s 1 are  
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

12 (a) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid  
13 journeyman electrician certificate of competency in effect for the  
14 previous four years and a valid general administrator's certificate may  
15 apply for a master journeyman electrician certificate of competency  
16 without examination.

17 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid  
18 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty  
19 applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty

1 administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply  
2 for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without  
3 examination.

4 (c) Before December 1, 2003, the following persons may obtain an  
5 equipment repair specialty electrician certificate of competency  
6 without examination:

7 (i) A person who has successfully completed an apprenticeship  
8 program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the machinist trade; and

9 (ii) A person who provides evidence in a form prescribed by the  
10 department affirming that: (A) He or she was employed as of April 1,  
11 2003, by a factory-authorized equipment dealer or service company; and  
12 (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of four  
13 thousand hours.

14 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journeyman  
15 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed  
16 a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency for four  
17 years.

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

22 (f) To be eligible to take the examination for a journeyman  
23 certificate of competency the applicant must have:

24 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of  
25 eight thousand hours, of which four thousand hours shall be in  
26 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision  
27 of a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician and not  
28 more than a total of four thousand hours in all specialties under the  
29 supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician,  
30 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,  
31 or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.  
32 Speciality electricians with less than a four thousand hour work  
33 experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that  
34 specialty towards qualifying to become a journeyman electrician; or

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

37 (g) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty  
38 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have:

1 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46A-  
2 930(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46A-  
3 930(2)(b)(i)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(c)), limited  
4 energy (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(e)(i)), nonresidential  
5 maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(f)(i)), or other new  
6 nonresidential specialties as determined by the department in rule  
7 under the supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman  
8 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that electrician's  
9 specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's  
10 specialty for a minimum of four thousand hours; or

11 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by the  
12 department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined  
13 by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty as determined  
14 by the department in rule, or a specialty other than the designated  
15 specialties in (g)(i) of this subsection for a minimum of the initial  
16 ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the department. The  
17 restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty is limited to a maximum  
18 of 277 volts and 20 amperes for lighting branch circuits and/or a  
19 maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes for other circuits, but excludes  
20 the replacement or repair of circuit breakers. The initial period must  
21 be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a master journeyman  
22 electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician  
23 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
24 working in that electrician's specialty. After this initial period, a  
25 person may take the specialty examination. If the person passes the  
26 examination, the person may work unsupervised for the balance of the  
27 minimum hours required for certification. A person may not be  
28 certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance repair specialty  
29 or in a specialty other than the designated specialties in (g)(i) of  
30 this subsection, however, until the person has worked a minimum of two  
31 thousand hours in that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the  
32 department; or

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

36 (h) Any applicant for a journeyman electrician certificate of  
37 competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the  
38 electrical construction trade at public community or technical

1 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade  
2 schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating  
3 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two years of the  
4 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience  
5 under a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician. The  
6 applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience  
7 required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to  
8 the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school  
9 program. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical  
10 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be  
11 eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification  
12 to take the examination for the journeyman electrician certificate of  
13 competency.

14 (i) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of  
15 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a  
16 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public  
17 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally  
18 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the work force  
19 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may  
20 substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for  
21 one year of work experience under a master journeyman electrician,  
22 journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that  
23 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that  
24 electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in  
25 the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United  
26 States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards  
27 qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty  
28 electrician certificate of competency.

29 (j) The department must determine whether hours of training and  
30 experience in the armed services or school program are in the  
31 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for hours  
32 of work experience.

33 (i) The department must use the following criteria for evaluating  
34 the equivalence of armed service experience. The department may allow  
35 armed service experience as a substitute for work experience if the  
36 applicant has armed service experience in a specialized electrical  
37 field that is similar to a specialty recognized by the department in

1 rule. Armed service experience allowed as a substitute for work  
2 experience should include, but is not limited to, building construction  
3 experience, and nuclear, marine, or other shipboard experience.

4 (ii) The department must use the following criteria for evaluating  
5 the equivalence of classroom electrical training programs and work in  
6 the electrical construction trade:

7 ~~((i))~~ (A) A two-year electrical training program must consist of  
8 three thousand or more hours.

9 ~~((ii))~~ (B) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum  
10 of two thousand four hundred hours of student/instructor contact time  
11 must be technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope  
12 of work of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time  
13 includes lecture and in-school lab.

14 ~~((iii))~~ (C) The department may not allow credit for a program  
15 that accepts more than one thousand hours transferred from another  
16 school's program.

17 ~~((iv))~~ (D) Electrical specialty training school programs of less  
18 than two years will have all of the above student/instructor contact  
19 time hours proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to  
20 more than fifty percent of the work experience required to attain  
21 certification.

22 ~~((v))~~ (E) Electrical training programs of less than two years may  
23 not be credited towards qualification for journeyman electrician unless  
24 the training program is used to gain qualification for a four thousand  
25 hour electrical specialty.

26 (k) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

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

33 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than one  
34 year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test for a  
35 certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after  
36 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of

1 this section, full-time basis means two thousand hours.

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