
SENATE BILL 5210

State of Washington

58th Legislature

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By Senators Honeyford, Rasmussen, Roach, Mulliken, T. Sheldon,
Parlette and Stevens

Read first time 01/20/2003. Referred to Committee on Commerce &
Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to electrician certification; and amending RCW
2 19.28.191.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2002 c 249 s 5 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

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

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

16 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid
17 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty
18 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) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journeyman
5 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed
6 a valid journeyman electrician certificate of competency for four
7 years.

8 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty
9 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have possessed
10 a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the
11 specialty applied for, for two years.

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

14 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of
15 eight thousand hours, of which four thousand hours shall be in
16 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision
17 of a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician and not
18 more than a total of four thousand hours in all specialties under the
19 supervision of a master journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician,
20 master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty,
21 or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.
22 Speciality electricians with less than a four thousand hour work
23 experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that
24 specialty towards qualifying to become a journeyman electrician; or

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

27 (f) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty
28 electrician certificate of competency the applicant must have:

29 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46A-
30 930(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46A-
31 930(2)(b)(i)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(c)), limited
32 energy (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(e)(i)), nonresidential
33 maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46A-930(2)(f)(i)), (~~restricted~~
34 ~~nonresidential maintenance as determined by the department in rule,~~)
35 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the department
36 in rule under the supervision of a master journeyman electrician,
37 journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that

1 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
2 electrician's specialty for a minimum of four thousand hours; or

3 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by the
4 department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as determined
5 by the department in rule, or a specialty other than the designated
6 specialties in (f)(i) of this subsection for a minimum of the initial
7 ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the department. The initial
8 period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a master
9 journeyman electrician, journeyman electrician, master specialty
10 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
11 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After this
12 initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If the
13 person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised for the
14 balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A person may
15 not be certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance repair
16 specialty or in a specialty other than the designated specialties in
17 (f)(i) of this subsection, however, until the person has worked a
18 minimum of two thousand hours in that specialty, or longer if set by
19 rule by the department; or

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

23 (g) Any applicant for a journeyman electrician certificate of
24 competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the
25 electrical construction trade at public community or technical
26 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade
27 schools licensed by the work force training and education coordinating
28 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW may substitute up to two years of the
29 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience
30 under a master journeyman electrician or journeyman electrician. The
31 applicant shall obtain the additional two years of work experience
32 required in industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to
33 the beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school
34 program. Any applicant who has received training in the electrical
35 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be
36 eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification
37 to take the examination for the journeyman electrician certificate of
38 competency.

1 (h) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of
2 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a
3 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public
4 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally
5 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the work force
6 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may
7 substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for
8 one year of work experience under a master journeyman electrician,
9 journeyman electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
10 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
11 electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in
12 the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United
13 States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards
14 qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty
15 electrician certificate of competency.

16 (i) The department must determine whether hours of training and
17 experience in the armed services or school program are in the
18 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for hours
19 of work experience. The department must use the following criteria for
20 evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical training programs
21 and work in the electrical construction trade:

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

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

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

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

36 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not be
37 credited towards qualification for journeyman electrician unless the

1 training program is used to gain qualification for a four thousand hour
2 electrical specialty.

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

4 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
5 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In
6 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.
7 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
8 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
9 the time and place for taking the examination.

10 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than one
11 year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test for a
12 certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after
13 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of
14 this section, full-time basis means two thousand hours.

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