
SENATE BILL 6607

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford and T. Sheldon

Read first time 01/27/2004. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to directing the department of labor and industries
2 to develop a plan to transfer the regulation of heating, ventilating,
3 air conditioning, and refrigeration specialty contractors from the
4 electrical board; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the heating,
7 ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration industry is
8 sufficiently unique and distinct from the general electrical industry
9 to justify the creation of a separate regulatory structure, governed by
10 its own board. The department of labor and industries is directed to
11 work with representatives of the heating, ventilating, air
12 conditioning, and refrigeration industry, and other interested parties,
13 to develop a comprehensive plan, including but not limited to all
14 legislative and regulatory changes necessary to create such a structure
15 and board.

16 (2) The comprehensive plan must be guided by and include the
17 following:

18 (a) Specific equipment must be identified and defined that

1 distinguish the heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and
2 refrigeration industry from other trades and industries;

3 (b) The regulatory scheme may not be a duplicate licensing process,
4 but must establish the training and experience requirements, including
5 but not limited to an examination relating to the identified heating,
6 ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration equipment, to ensure
7 that technicians and businesses performing work on such equipment are
8 qualified to do so in a manner that ensures their safety and the safety
9 of the public;

10 (c) The regulatory scheme must require heating, ventilating, air
11 conditioning, and refrigeration contractors to be subject to the
12 licensing and bonding requirements of chapter 18.27 RCW, but shall
13 exempt from electrical contractor licensing requirements all heating,
14 ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration contractors that meet
15 the requirements to be established under (a) of this subsection, with
16 respect to the identified heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and
17 refrigeration equipment;

18 (d) The regulatory scheme must also include a permitting and
19 inspection component, to apply where local jurisdictions do not have
20 more stringent standards, in order to ensure that appropriate
21 requirements for health and safety are met; and

22 (e) A board of heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and
23 refrigeration must be established with authority to: (i) Develop
24 appropriate rules; (ii) require, receive, and manage fees adequate to
25 finance the regulatory scheme; and (iii) enforce compliance of its
26 rules upon heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration
27 contractors and technicians.

28 (3) The department shall submit the plan to the legislature no
29 later than December 31, 2004.

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