

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 1331

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Labor, Commerce, Research & Development, February 16, 2006

**Title:** An act relating to electrical contractor licenses.

**Brief Description:** Requiring electrical contractors to be licensed before advertising.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Conway, Alexander, Wood, DeBolt, Simpson, Strow, Chase and Ormsby.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 1/27/06, 98-0.

**Committee Activity:** Labor, Commerce, Research & Development: 3/17/05, 3/21/05, 2/16/06 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Kohl-Welles, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Parlette, Ranking Minority Member; Keiser and Prentice.

**Staff:** John Dziedzic (786-7784)

**Background:** Statutes relating to plumbers, general contractors, and telecommunications work require that a person be properly registered or licensed before engaging in, conducting, or carrying on the respective business. In addition, the person is also prohibiting from offering to do work, submitting a bid to do work, or doing any advertising in the respective trade without being properly registered or licensed.

The statute relating to electrical contractors specifies that a license is required only before the entity can engage in, conduct, or carry on the business of an electrical contractor.

**Summary of Bill:** The statute relating to electrical contractors is amended to require a person to have a license before advertising, offering to do work, or submitting a bid to install or maintain wires or equipment to convey electric current.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Most people in the industry consider this to be an existing requirement, but the clarification will remove any doubt, which will help the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) reduce the costs of litigation. The clarification also helps level the playing

field against electrical contractors attempting to conduct business in the underground economy.

**Testimony Against:** The bill is unnecessary because L&I currently interprets the law this way, and could lead to L&I requiring electrical contractors to include their license numbers on the magnetic signs on their company vehicles.

**Who Testified:** PRO: Dick King, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 46; Gary Smith, Independent Business Assn.

CON: Larry Stevens, National Electrical Contractors Assn.