
HOUSE BILL 1871

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Sells

Read first time 02/01/17. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to electrical and plumbing work performed by
2 state employees; amending RCW 18.106.150 and 19.28.261; adding a new
3 section to chapter 49.04 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.106.150 and 2013 c 23 s 25 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require that a
8 person obtain a license or a certified plumber in order to do
9 plumbing work at his or her residence or farm or place of business or
10 on other property owned by him or her.

11 (2) A current certificate of competency or apprentice permit is
12 not required for:

13 (a) Persons performing plumbing work on a farm; or

14 (b) Certified journey level electricians, certified residential
15 specialty electricians, or electrical trainees working for an
16 electrical contractor and performing exempt work under RCW
17 18.27.090(18).

18 (3) Nothing in this chapter shall be intended to derogate from or
19 dispense with the requirements of any valid plumbing code enacted by
20 a political subdivision of the state, except that no code shall
21 require the holder of a certificate of competency to demonstrate any

1 additional proof of competency or obtain any other license or pay any
2 fee in order to engage in the trade of plumbing.

3 (4) This chapter shall not apply to common carriers subject to
4 Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act, nor to their officers and
5 employees.

6 (5) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to apply to any
7 farm, business, industrial plant, or corporation doing plumbing work
8 on premises it owns or operates.

9 (6) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to restrict the
10 right of any householder to assist or receive assistance from a
11 friend, neighbor, relative, or other person when none of the
12 individuals doing such plumbing hold themselves out as engaged in the
13 trade or business of plumbing.

14 (7) This section does not apply to regularly employed employees
15 working on the premises of a state agency employer. For purposes of
16 this subsection, "state agency" means any state board, commission,
17 bureau, committee, department, institution, division, or tribunal in
18 state government, including statewide elected offices and
19 institutions of higher education created and supported by the state
20 government, but does not mean the parks and recreation commission.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.261 and 2013 c 23 s 37 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (1) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed
24 to require that a person obtain a license or a certified electrician
25 in order to do electrical work at his or her residence or farm or
26 place of business or on other property owned by him or her unless the
27 electrical work is on the construction of a new building intended for
28 rent, sale, or lease. However, if the construction is of a new
29 residential building with up to four units intended for rent, sale,
30 or lease, the owner may receive an exemption from the requirement to
31 obtain a license or use a certified electrician if he or she provides
32 a signed affidavit to the department stating that he or she will be
33 performing the work and will occupy one of the units as his or her
34 principal residence. The owner shall apply to the department for this
35 exemption and may only receive an exemption once every twenty-four
36 months. It is intended that the owner receiving this exemption shall
37 occupy the unit as his or her principal residence for twenty-four
38 months after completion of the units.

1 (2) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be intended
2 to derogate from or dispense with the requirements of any valid
3 electrical code enacted by a city or town pursuant to RCW
4 19.28.010(3), except that no code shall require the holder of a
5 certificate of competency to demonstrate any additional proof of
6 competency or obtain any other license or pay any fee in order to
7 engage in the electrical construction trade.

8 (3) RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall not apply to common
9 carriers subject to Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act, nor to
10 their officers and employees.

11 (4) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be deemed to
12 apply to the installation or maintenance of telephone, telegraph,
13 radio, or television wires and equipment; nor to any electrical
14 utility or its employees in the installation, repair, and maintenance
15 of electrical wiring, circuits, and equipment by or for the utility,
16 or comprising a part of its plants, lines, or systems.

17 (5) The licensing provisions of RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271
18 shall not apply to:

19 (a) Persons making electrical installations on their own property
20 or to regularly employed employees working on the premises of their
21 employer, unless the electrical work is on the construction of a new
22 building intended for rent, sale, or lease. The exemption in this
23 subsection (5)(a) does not apply to regularly employed employees
24 working on the premises of a state agency employer. For purposes of
25 this subsection, "state agency" means any state board, commission,
26 bureau, committee, department, institution, division, or tribunal
27 state government, including statewide elected offices and
28 institutions of higher education created and supported by the state
29 government, but does not include the parks and recreation commission;

30 (b) Employees of an employer while the employer is performing
31 utility type work of the nature described in RCW 19.28.091 so long as
32 such employees have registered in the state of Washington with or
33 graduated from a state-approved outside lineworker apprenticeship
34 course that is recognized by the department and that qualifies a
35 person to perform such work;

36 (c) Any work exempted under RCW 19.28.091(6); and

37 (d) Certified plumbers, certified residential plumbers, or
38 plumber trainees meeting the requirements of chapter 18.106 RCW and
39 performing exempt work under RCW 19.28.091(8).

1 (6) Nothing in RCW 19.28.161 through 19.28.271 shall be construed
2 to restrict the right of any householder to assist or receive
3 assistance from a friend, neighbor, relative, or other person when
4 none of the individuals doing the electrical installation hold
5 themselves out as engaged in the trade or business of electrical
6 installations.

7 (7) Nothing precludes any person who is exempt from the licensing
8 requirements of this chapter under this section from obtaining a
9 journey level or specialty certificate of competency if they
10 otherwise meet the requirements of this chapter.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 49.04
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 The department of labor and industries shall study and make
14 recommendations on the development of apprenticeship programs under
15 which state government employees who perform electrical and plumbing
16 work may obtain electrician and plumber certificates of competency.
17 The department shall report its findings and recommendations to the
18 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2017.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act take effect
20 January 1, 2022.

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