
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6126

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senate Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Saldaña, Hasegawa, Chase, Conway, Zeiger, Keiser, and Kuderer)

READ FIRST TIME 01/17/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring completion of an apprenticeship
2 program to receive a journey level electrician certificate of
3 competency; amending RCW 19.28.191, 19.28.161, and 19.28.205; adding
4 a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW; providing an effective date; and
5 providing an expiration date.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2016 c 198 s 2 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

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

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

19 ~~(b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid~~
20 ~~specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty~~
21 ~~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;~~
12 ~~and (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of~~
13 ~~four thousand hours.~~

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

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

22 ~~((f)) (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey~~
23 ~~level certificate of competency, the applicant must have((~~

24 ~~(i)) successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved~~
25 ~~under chapter 49.04 RCW or equivalent apprenticeship program approved~~
26 ~~by the department for the electrical construction trade in which the~~
27 ~~applicant worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum~~
28 ~~of eight thousand hours((, of which)). Four thousand of the hours~~
29 ~~shall be in industrial or commercial electrical installation under~~
30 ~~the supervision of a master journey level electrician or journey~~
31 ~~level electrician and not more than a total of four thousand hours in~~
32 ~~all specialties under the supervision of a master journey level~~
33 ~~electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician~~
34 ~~working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician~~
35 ~~working in that electrician's specialty. Specialty electricians with~~
36 ~~less than a four thousand hour work experience requirement cannot~~
37 ~~credit the time required to obtain that specialty towards qualifying~~
38 ~~to become a journey level electrician((; or~~

39 ~~(ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved~~
40 ~~under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade)). The~~

1 holder of a specialty electrician certificate of competency with a
2 four thousand hour work experience requirement shall be allowed to
3 credit the work experience required to obtain that certificate
4 towards apprenticeship requirements for qualifying to take the
5 examination for a journey level electrician certificate of
6 competency.

7 ((g)(i)) (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a
8 specialty electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must
9 have:

10 ((A)) (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC
11 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC
12 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),
13 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),
14 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),
15 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the
16 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level
17 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
18 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
19 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of four
20 thousand hours;

21 ((B)) (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as
22 determined by the department in rule, restricted nonresidential
23 maintenance as determined by the department in rule, the equipment
24 repair specialty as determined by the department in rule, the pump
25 and irrigation specialty other than as defined by ((g)) (d)(i)
26 ((A)) of this subsection or domestic pump specialty as determined
27 by the department in rule, or a specialty other than the designated
28 specialties in ((g)) (d)(i)((A)) of this subsection for a minimum
29 of the initial ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the
30 department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty is
31 limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for lighting branch
32 circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes for other
33 circuits excluding the replacement or repair of circuit breakers. The
34 department may alter the scope of work for the restricted
35 nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule. The initial period must
36 be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a master journey
37 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty
38 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
39 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After this
40 initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If the

1 person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised for
2 the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A person
3 may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance
4 repair specialty or in a specialty other than the designated
5 specialties in ~~((g))~~ (d)(i)~~((A))~~ of this subsection, however,
6 until the person has worked a minimum of two thousand hours in that
7 specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department; ~~((e~~
8 ~~(e))~~ (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship
9 program under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the
10 electrical construction trade~~((-))~~; or
11 ~~((ii))~~ (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump
12 and irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be
13 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same
14 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW
15 18.106.040(1)(c). After meeting the training requirements provided in
16 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon
17 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as
18 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a
19 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying
20 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate
21 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty
22 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) with the
23 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in
24 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional
25 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this
26 subsection. ~~((Individuals who are able to provide evidence to the
27 department, prior to January 1, 2007, that they have been employed as
28 a pump installer in the pump and irrigation or domestic pump business
29 by an appropriately licensed electrical contractor, registered
30 general contractor defined by chapter 18.27 RCW, or appropriate
31 general specialty contractor defined by chapter 18.27 RCW for not
32 less than eight thousand hours in the most recent six calendar years
33 shall be issued the appropriate certificate by the department upon
34 receiving such documentation and applicable fees.))~~ The department
35 shall establish a single document for those who have received both an
36 electrical specialty certification as defined by this subsection and
37 have also met the certification requirements for the specialty
38 plumber as defined by RCW 18.106.010(10)(c), showing that the
39 individual has received both certifications. No other experience or
40 training requirements may be imposed.

1 ~~((iii) Before July 1, 2015, an applicant possessing an~~
2 ~~electrical training certificate issued by the department is eligible~~
3 ~~to apply one hour of every two hours of unsupervised~~
4 ~~telecommunications system installation work experience toward~~
5 ~~eligibility for examination for a limited energy system certificate~~
6 ~~of competency (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), if:~~

7 ~~(A) The telecommunications work experience was obtained while~~
8 ~~employed by a contractor licensed under this chapter as a general~~
9 ~~electrical contractor (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(1)) or limited~~
10 ~~energy system specialty contractor (as specified in WAC~~
11 ~~296-46B-920(2)(e)); and~~

12 ~~(B) Evidence of the telecommunications work experience is~~
13 ~~submitted in the form of an affidavit prescribed by the department.~~

14 ~~(h))~~ (e) Any applicant for a journey level electrician
15 certificate of competency who has successfully completed a two-year
16 program in the electrical construction trade at public community or
17 technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical
18 or trade schools licensed by the workforce training and education
19 coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to two
20 years of the technical or trade school program for two years of work
21 experience under a master journey level electrician or journey level
22 electrician required under the apprenticeship program. The applicant
23 shall obtain the additional two years of work experience required in
24 industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to the
25 beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school program.
26 Any applicant who has received training in the electrical
27 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be
28 eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification
29 to complete an apprenticeship and take the examination for the
30 journey level electrician certificate of competency.

31 ~~((i))~~ (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate
32 of competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed
33 a two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public
34 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally
35 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce
36 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,
37 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school
38 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level
39 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
40 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician

1 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has
2 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed
3 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service
4 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an
5 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

6 ~~((+j))~~ (g) The department must determine whether hours of
7 training and experience in the armed services or school program are
8 in the electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute
9 for hours of work experience. The department must use the following
10 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical
11 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

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

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

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

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

27 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not
28 be credited towards qualification for journey level electrician
29 unless the training program is used to gain qualification for a four
30 thousand hour electrical specialty.

31 ~~((+k))~~ (h) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

32 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
33 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.
34 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the
35 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
36 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
37 ~~((the time and place))~~ instructions for taking the examination.

38 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than
39 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test
40 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after

1 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of
2 this section, "full-time basis" means two thousand hours.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.161 and 2013 c 23 s 29 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade
6 without having a valid master journey level electrician certificate
7 of competency, journey level electrician certificate of competency,
8 master specialty electrician certificate of competency, or specialty
9 electrician certificate of competency issued by the department in
10 accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of competency
11 specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential, pump and
12 irrigation, limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance,
13 restricted nonresidential maintenance, and appliance repair. (~~Until~~
14 ~~July 1, 2007, the department of labor and industries shall issue a~~
15 ~~written warning to any specialty pump and irrigation or domestic pump~~
16 ~~electrician not having a valid electrician certification. The warning~~
17 ~~will state that the individual must apply for an electrical training~~
18 ~~certificate or be qualified for and apply for electrician~~
19 ~~certification under the requirements in RCW 19.28.191(1)(g) within~~
20 ~~thirty calendar days of the warning. Only one warning will be issued~~
21 ~~to any individual. If the individual fails to comply with this~~
22 ~~section, the department shall issue a penalty as defined in RCW~~
23 ~~19.28.271 to the individual.))~~

24 (2)(a) A person who is (~~indentured~~): (i) Registered in an
25 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the
26 electrical construction trade (~~or who is~~); (ii) learning the
27 electrical construction trade while working in a specialty; or (iii)
28 learning the electrical construction trade in a program described in
29 RCW 19.28.191(1) (e) or (f) for a journey level certificate of
30 competency may work in the electrical construction trade if
31 supervised by a certified master journey level electrician, journey
32 level electrician, master specialty electrician in that electrician's
33 specialty, or specialty electrician in that electrician's specialty.

34 (b) All apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
35 construction trade shall obtain an electrical training certificate
36 from the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to
37 learn the electrical construction trade while under the direct
38 supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level
39 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that

1 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
2 electrician's specialty. The certificate may include a photograph of
3 the holder. The holder of the electrical training certificate shall
4 renew the certificate biennially. At the time of renewal, the holder
5 shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's
6 employers in the electrical construction industry for the previous
7 biennial period and the number of hours worked for each employer. The
8 holder shall also provide proof of ~~((sixteen))~~ forty-eight hours of:
9 Approved classroom training covering this chapter, the national
10 electrical code, or electrical theory; or equivalent classroom
11 training taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program under
12 chapter 49.04 RCW or an approved electrical training program under
13 RCW 19.28.191(1)~~((+h))~~ (e). ~~((The number of hours of approved
14 classroom training required for certificate renewal shall increase as
15 follows: (a) Beginning on July 1, 2011, the holder of an electrical
16 training certificate shall provide the department with proof of
17 thirty two hours of approved classroom training; and (b) beginning on
18 July 1, 2013, the holder of an electrical training certificate shall
19 provide the department with proof of forty eight hours of approved
20 classroom training. At the request of the chairs of the house of
21 representatives commerce and labor committee and the senate labor,
22 commerce and consumer protection committee, or their successor
23 committees, the department of labor and industries shall provide
24 information on the implementation of the new classroom training
25 requirements for electrical trainees to both committees by December
26 1, 2012.))~~ A biennial fee shall be charged for the issuance or
27 renewal of the certificate. The department shall set the fee by rule.
28 The fee shall cover but not exceed the cost of administering and
29 enforcing the trainee certification and supervision requirements of
30 this chapter.

31 (c)(i) Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
32 construction trade shall have their electrical training certificates
33 in their possession at all times that they are performing electrical
34 work. They shall show their certificates to an authorized
35 representative of the department at the representative's request.

36 (ii) Unless working in a specialty, apprentices and individuals
37 learning the electrical construction trade must also have in their
38 possession proof of apprenticeship or training program registration.
39 They shall show their apprenticeship or training program registration

1 documents to an authorized representative of the department at the
2 representative's request.

3 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training
4 certificate under this chapter may work: (a) If that person is under
5 supervision, and is (b) unless working in a specialty, (i) registered
6 in an approved journey level apprenticeship program, as appropriate;
7 or (ii) learning the electrical construction trade in a program
8 described in RCW 19.28.191(1)(e) for a journey level certificate of
9 competency. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same
10 job site and under the control of either a certified master journey
11 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty
12 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
13 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Either a
14 certified master journey level electrician, journey level
15 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
16 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
17 electrician's specialty shall be on the same job site as the
18 noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each
19 working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

20 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master
21 journey level electricians, journey level electricians, master
22 specialty electricians, or specialty electricians on any one job site
23 is as follows:

24 (a) When working as a specialty electrician, not more than two
25 noncertified individuals for every certified master specialty
26 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, specialty
27 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, master journey
28 level electrician, or journey level electrician, except that the
29 ratio requirements are one certified master specialty electrician
30 working in that electrician's specialty, specialty electrician
31 working in that electrician's specialty, master journey level
32 electrician, or journey level electrician working as a specialty
33 electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working as
34 part of an electrical construction program at public community or
35 technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or
36 technical schools licensed by the workforce training and education
37 coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio
38 requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction
39 program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and
40 advice from the electrical board; and

1 (b) When working as a journey level electrician, not more than
2 one noncertified individual for every certified master journey level
3 electrician or journey level electrician, except that the ratio
4 requirements shall be one certified master journey level electrician
5 or journey level electrician to no more than four students enrolled
6 in and working as part of an electrical construction program at
7 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
8 accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the workforce
9 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW.
10 In meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an
11 electrical construction program at a trade school, a trade school may
12 receive input and advice from the electrical board.

13 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has
14 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved
15 apprenticeship program or in an electrical construction program at
16 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
17 accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the workforce
18 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,
19 may work without direct on-site supervision during the last six
20 months of meeting the practical experience requirements of this
21 chapter.

22 (5) For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)),
23 pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as
24 specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy (as specified in
25 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in
26 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as
27 determined by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential
28 specialties, not including appliance repair, as determined by the
29 department in rule, either a master journey level electrician,
30 journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in
31 that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in
32 that electrician's specialty must be on the same job site as the
33 noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each
34 working day. Other specialties must meet the requirements specified
35 in RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(g)~~) (d)(ii). When the ratio of certified
36 electricians to noncertified individuals on a job site is one
37 certified electrician to three or four noncertified individuals, the
38 certified electrician must:

1 (a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals
2 and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an
3 electrical installation; and

4 (b) Be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a
5 minimum of one hundred percent of each working day.

6 (6) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and attest
7 to the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on
8 behalf of the electrical contractor.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.205 and 2013 c 23 s 32 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) An applicant for a journey level certificate of competency
12 under RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(f)~~) (c) or a specialty electrician
13 certificate of competency under RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(g)~~) (d) must
14 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department completion of in-
15 class education as follows:

16 (a) Twenty-four hours of in-class education if two thousand hours
17 or more but less than four thousand hours of work are required for
18 the certificate;

19 (b) Forty-eight hours of in-class education if four thousand or
20 more but less than six thousand hours of work are required for the
21 certificate;

22 (c) Seventy-two hours of in-class education if six thousand or
23 more but less than eight thousand hours of work are required for the
24 certificate;

25 (d) Ninety-six hours of in-class education if eight thousand or
26 more hours of work are required for the certificate.

27 (2) For purposes of this section, "in-class education" means
28 approved classroom training covering this chapter, the national
29 electric code, or electrical theory; or equivalent classroom training
30 taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program under chapter
31 49.04 RCW or an approved electrical training program under RCW
32 19.28.191(1)(~~(h)~~) (e).

33 (3) Classroom training taken to qualify for trainee certificate
34 renewal under RCW 19.28.161 qualifies as in-class education under
35 this section.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 19.28
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The department may permit an applicant who obtained
2 experience and training equivalent to a journey level apprenticeship
3 program to take the examination if the applicant establishes that the
4 applicant has the equivalent training and experience and demonstrates
5 good cause for not completing the required minimum hours of work
6 under standards applicable on the effective date of this section.

7 (2) This section expires July 1, 2025.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act take
9 effect July 1, 2023.

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