

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5320

C 95 L 23
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning journey level electrician certifications of competency.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Saldaña, Keiser, King, Randall and Wilson, C.).

Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce
House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards

Background: An electrical contractor license is required to engage in the business of installing or maintaining wires or equipment to convey electric current, or equipment to be operated by electric current. To work as an electrician, an individual must have a journey level (01), or specialty electrician certificate of competency. The Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) issues licenses and certificates of competency and administers the regulation of electricians and electrical work.

Until July 1, 2023, to obtain certification as a journey level electrician, an individual must work in the electrical construction trade for at least 8000 hours to take the required examination. An applicant may substitute up to two years of certain school programs for two years of work experience. Training in the electrical construction trade in the military may also be credited as work experience. Alternatively, an individual may qualify to take the examination by completing an apprenticeship program approved by the Washington Apprenticeship and Training Council.

Beginning July 1, 2023, applicants for a journey level electrician certificate must have completed an approved apprenticeship program to take the required examination. As part of the apprenticeship, the applicant must have worked in the electrical construction trade for at least 8000 hours, 4000 of which must be in electrical installations in industrial or commercial facilities under supervision. An applicant may substitute up to two years of certain school programs for two years of work experience under an apprenticeship. Training in the electrical construction trade in the military may also be credited as work experience.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

From July 1, 2023, until July 1, 2025, L&I may permit an applicant who obtained experience and training equivalent to a journey level apprenticeship program to take the examination if the applicant had good cause for not completing the minimum hours of work.

Summary: Beginning July 1, 2023, to be eligible for the examination for a journey level certificate of competency, an applicant must have:

- successfully completed the work experience and education requirements of an 8000 hour electrical construction trade apprenticeship program;
 1. 4000 of the hours must be new industrial or commercial electrical installations under supervision;
- successfully completed an 8000 hour electrical construction trade apprenticeship in another jurisdiction equivalent to an apprenticeship program approved in Washington;
 1. 4000 of the hours must be new industrial or commercial electrical installations;
- an out-of-state journey level electrician certificate obtained through examination by a state licensing jurisdiction requiring at least 8000 hours of supervised experience in the electrical construction trade;
 1. 4000 of the hours must be new industrial or commercial electrical installations;
 2. all experience applied toward qualifying for examination must be experience gained in the state that issued the certificate or military experience;
- at least 16,000 hours of out-of-state experience in the electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and equipment;
 1. 4000 of the hours must be new industrial or commercial electrical installations;or
- 8000 hours of experience in the electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and equipment while serving in a construction battalion in the armed forces.

Until July 1, 2026, L&I must permit a person issued an electrical training certificate to work to gain the experience required for the journey level electrician certification examination without registering in an apprenticeship if the trainee has 3000 hours of experience worked in the electrical construction trade or has completed a two-year training school program in the electrical construction trade. L&I must also permit these trainees to qualify for the journey level electrical examination if the applicant demonstrates 8000 hours of experience in the electrical construction trade, 4000 of which must be new industrial or commercial electrical installations.

The provision allowing L&I to permit an applicant who obtained experience and training equivalent to a journey level apprenticeship program to take the examination if the applicant had good cause for not completing the minimum hours of work is removed.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	41	7
House	98	0

Effective: July 1, 2023