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HOUSE BILL 1462

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State of Washington

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By Representatives Doglio, Bronoske, Fosse, Reed, Chopp, Stonier, Street, Berry, Cortes, Ramel, Simmons, Ormsby, Gregerson, Pollet, and Macri

Read first time 01/19/23. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to journey level electrician certifications of  
2 competency; amending RCW 19.28.191; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2020 c 153 s 26 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

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

11 (a) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journey  
12 level electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
13 possessed a valid journey level electrician certificate of competency  
14 for four years.

15 (b) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty  
16 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
17 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in  
18 the specialty applied for, for two years.

19 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey level  
20 certificate of competency, the applicant must have (~~successfully~~  
21 ~~completed an~~);

1        (i) Successfully completed the work experience and education  
2 requirements of an 8,000 hour electrical construction trade  
3 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW (~~or~~  
4 equivalent apprenticeship program approved by the department for the  
5 electrical construction trade in which the applicant worked in the  
6 electrical construction trade for a minimum of eight thousand  
7 hours)). Four thousand of the hours (~~shall~~) must be (~~in~~) new  
8 industrial or commercial (~~electrical installation~~) installations  
9 under the supervision of a master journey level electrician or  
10 journey level electrician and not more than a total of (~~four~~  
11 thousand) 4,000 hours in all specialties under the supervision of a  
12 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master  
13 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or  
14 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.  
15 Specialty electricians with less than a (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour  
16 work experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain  
17 that specialty towards qualifying to become a journey level  
18 electrician. The holder of a specialty electrician certificate of  
19 competency with a (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour work experience  
20 requirement shall be allowed to credit the work experience required  
21 to obtain that certificate towards apprenticeship requirements for  
22 qualifying to take the examination for a journey level electrician  
23 certificate of competency;

24        (ii) Successfully completed an 8,000 hour electrical construction  
25 trade apprenticeship program in another jurisdiction equivalent to an  
26 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW. Four  
27 thousand of the hours must be new electrical installations in  
28 industrial or commercial facilities;

29        (iii) An out-of-state journey level electrician certificate  
30 obtained through examination by a state licensing jurisdiction  
31 requiring at least 8,000 hours of supervised experience in the  
32 electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical  
33 wiring and equipment for installations of a type regulated under this  
34 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or  
35 commercial installations. All experience applied toward qualifying  
36 for examination must be experience gained in the state that issued  
37 the certificate or military experience not exceeding that allowed  
38 under this chapter, or both;

39        (iv) At least 16,000 hours of out-of-state experience in the  
40 electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical

1 wiring and equipment for installations of a type regulated under this  
2 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or  
3 commercial installations; or

4 (v) Eight thousand hours of experience in the electrical  
5 construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and  
6 equipment for installations of a type regulated under this chapter  
7 while serving in a construction battalion in the armed forces of the  
8 United States.

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

11 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC  
12 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC  
13 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),  
14 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),  
15 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),  
16 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the  
17 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level  
18 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician  
19 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
20 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of (~~four~~  
21 ~~thousand~~) 4,000 hours;

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

1 the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised  
2 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A  
3 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the  
4 appliance repair specialty or in a specialty other than the  
5 designated specialties in (d)(i) of this subsection, however, until  
6 the person has worked a minimum of (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours in  
7 that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department;

8 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program  
9 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the  
10 electrical construction trade; or

11 (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and  
12 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)(d). 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(14)(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. The department shall establish a single document for  
27 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as  
28 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification  
29 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW  
30 18.106.010(14)(c), showing that the individual has received both  
31 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be  
32 imposed.

33 (e) Any applicant for a journey level electrician certificate of  
34 competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the  
35 electrical construction trade at public community or technical  
36 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade  
37 schools licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating  
38 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to two years of the  
39 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience  
40 under a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician

1 required under the apprenticeship program. The applicant shall obtain  
2 the additional two years of work experience required in industrial or  
3 commercial electrical installation prior to the beginning, or after  
4 the completion, of the technical school program. Any applicant who  
5 has received training in the electrical construction trade in the  
6 armed service of the United States may be eligible to apply armed  
7 service work experience towards qualification to complete an  
8 apprenticeship and take the examination for the journey level  
9 electrician certificate of competency.

10 (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of  
11 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a  
12 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public  
13 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally  
14 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce  
15 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,  
16 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school  
17 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level  
18 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician  
19 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
20 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has  
21 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed  
22 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service  
23 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an  
24 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

25 (g) The department must determine whether hours of training and  
26 experience in the armed services or school program are in the  
27 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for  
28 hours of work experience. The department must use the following  
29 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical  
30 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

31 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of  
32 (~~three thousand~~) 3,000 or more hours.

33 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of  
34 (~~two thousand four hundred~~) 2,400 hours of student/instructor  
35 contact time must be technical electrical instruction directly  
36 related to the scope of work of the electrical specialty. Student/  
37 instructor contact time includes lecture and in-school lab.

38 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that  
39 accepts more than (~~one thousand~~) 1,000 hours transferred from  
40 another school's program.

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

6 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not  
7 be credited towards qualification for journey level electrician  
8 unless the training program is used to gain qualification for a  
9 (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour electrical specialty.

10 (h) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

11 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the  
12 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.  
13 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the  
14 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
15 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating  
16 instructions for taking the examination.

17 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than  
18 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test  
19 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after  
20 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of  
21 this section, "full-time basis" means (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
24 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
25 effect July 1, 2023.

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