
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1526

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Labor & Workplace Standards (originally sponsored by Representatives Fosse, Maycumber, Ramel, Berry, Cortes, Bronoske, Peterson, Slatter, Ormsby, Doglio, Macri, Reed, and Riccelli)

READ FIRST TIME 02/16/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to state electrical inspectors' salaries; and
2 amending RCW 19.28.321.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.321 and 2007 c 218 s 84 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The director of labor and industries of the state of
7 Washington and the officials of all incorporated cities and towns
8 where electrical inspections are required by local ordinances shall
9 have power and it shall be their duty to enforce the provisions of
10 this chapter in their respective jurisdictions. The director of labor
11 and industries shall appoint a chief electrical inspector and may
12 appoint other electrical inspectors as the director deems necessary
13 to assist the director in the performance of the director's duties.
14 The chief electrical inspector, subject to the review of the
15 director, shall be responsible for providing the final interpretation
16 of adopted state electrical standards, rules, and policies for the
17 department and its inspectors, assistant inspectors, electrical plan
18 examiners, and other individuals supervising electrical program
19 personnel. If a dispute arises within the department regarding the
20 interpretation of adopted state electrical standards, rules, or
21 policies, the chief electrical inspector, subject to the review of

1 the director, shall provide the final interpretation of the disputed
2 standard, rule, or policy. All electrical inspectors appointed by the
3 director of labor and industries shall have not less than: Four years
4 experience as journeyperson electricians in the electrical
5 construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and
6 equipment, or two years electrical training in a college of
7 electrical engineering of recognized standing and four years
8 continuous practical electrical experience in installation work, or
9 four years of electrical training in a college of electrical
10 engineering of recognized standing and two years continuous practical
11 electrical experience in electrical installation work; or four years
12 experience as a journeyperson electrician performing the duties of an
13 electrical inspector employed by the department or a city or town
14 with an approved inspection program under RCW 19.28.141, except that
15 for work performed in accordance with the national electrical safety
16 code and covered by this chapter, such inspections may be performed
17 by a person certified as an outside journeyperson lineworker, under
18 RCW 19.28.261(5)(b), with four years experience or a person with four
19 years experience as a certified outside journeyperson lineworker
20 performing the duties of an electrical inspector employed by an
21 electrical utility.

22 (2)(a) Such state inspectors shall be paid ((such)) at least the
23 statewide average of the prevailing rate of wage, excluding usual
24 benefits and overtime, in the applicable scope of work for journey
25 level electricians certified under this chapter, as determined by the
26 department under chapter 39.12 RCW or a salary as the director of
27 labor and industries shall determine, together with their travel
28 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now
29 existing or hereafter amended, whichever amount is higher. When
30 determining the statewide average for purposes of this subsection,
31 the department shall use as the denominator the number of wage rates
32 across all counties in the same trade or occupation and not the wage
33 rate for each individual county. Wage rates under this subsection
34 shall be adjusted at the same time as prevailing wage rates under
35 chapter 39.12 RCW.

36 (b) Beginning December 1, 2024, and each December 1st thereafter,
37 the department shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of
38 the legislature providing the following information: (i) The increase
39 in the number of electrical inspectors hired after changes to
40 inspector salaries were made under (a) of this subsection; (ii) any

1 increase, decrease, or other changes in the department's response
2 time to requests for electrical inspections; (iii) any increase,
3 decrease, or other changes in the wait times for electrical
4 inspections; (iv) any increase, decrease, or other changes to the
5 utilization of virtual electrical inspections; and (v) any barriers
6 to virtual electrical inspections and recommendations to reduce those
7 barriers and increase the number of virtual inspections conducted by
8 the department.

9 (3) As a condition of employment, inspectors hired exclusively to
10 perform inspections in accordance with the national electrical safety
11 code must possess and maintain certification as an outside
12 journeyperson lineworker.

13 (4) The expenses of the director of labor and industries and the
14 salaries and expenses of state inspectors incurred in carrying out
15 the provisions of this chapter shall be paid entirely out of the
16 electrical license fund, upon vouchers approved by the director of
17 labor and industries.

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