
**Labor & Workplace Standards
Committee**

HB 1533

Brief Description: Allowing a specialty electrician to continue working under a valid specialty certificate of competency while enrolled in a journey level apprenticeship program.

Sponsors: Representatives Schmidt, Ramel and Reed.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows a person participating in a general journey level electrical apprenticeship program who also has a specialty electrical certificate of competency to continue to perform work as a specialty electrician in certain circumstances.

Hearing Date: 2/4/25

Staff: Kelly Leonard (786-7147).

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. A person must have a general journey level or specialty electrician certificate of competency in order to work as an electrician. The Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) issues licenses and certificates of competency and otherwise administers the regulation of electricians and electrical work.

A general journey level electrician (01) may perform all types of electrical and telecommunications installations, whereas a specialty electrician is authorized to perform a limited scope of electrical work. There are 14 specialty categories, including residential (02),

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pump and irrigation (03), domestic well (3A), signs (04), limited energy system (06), HVAC/refrigeration system (06A), HVAC/refrigeration - restricted (6B), nonresidential maintenance (07), nonresidential lighting maintenance and lighting retrofit (7A), residential maintenance (7B), restricted nonresidential maintenance (7C), appliance repair (7D), equipment repair (7E), and door, gate, and similar systems (10).

To obtain a specialty certificate of competency, a person must complete either 2,000 or 4,000 hours of trainee work experience and additional supplemental instructional hours, depending on the specialty category, and pass an examination. To obtain a journey level certificate of competency, a person must typically complete an approved apprenticeship program with at least 8,000 hours of work experience and pass an examination.

Journey level apprenticeship programs are reviewed and approved the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council (WSATC). A registered apprenticeship program must have a committee sponsor, which can be an employer, labor union, or employer association. Sponsors oversee every aspect of a registered apprenticeship program, from development to actual administration. Each apprenticeship program creates a written agreement that is reviewed by L&I and approved by the WSATC.

Summary of Bill:

L&I must adopt rules to allow a person with an electrical training certificate for a general journey level electrician apprenticeship program to also work under his or her specialty electrician certificate of competency while participating in the program if:

- the person is participating in a program operated by an apprenticeship committee representing a single employer;
- the person performs the specialty work for the employer; and
- the employer submits to L&I a detailed attestation of hours worked under the specialty electrician certificate of competency on a quarterly basis.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 29, 2025.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.