
HOUSE BILL 1533

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Schmidt, Ramel, and Reed

Read first time 01/23/25. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing a specialty electrician to continue
2 working under a valid specialty certificate of competency while
3 enrolled in a journey level apprenticeship program; and amending RCW
4 19.28.161.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.161 and 2018 c 249 s 2 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade
9 without having a valid master journey level electrician certificate
10 of competency, journey level electrician certificate of competency,
11 master specialty electrician certificate of competency, or specialty
12 electrician certificate of competency issued by the department in
13 accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of competency
14 specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential, pump and
15 irrigation, limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance,
16 restricted nonresidential maintenance, and appliance repair.

17 (2)(a) A person who is: (i) Registered in an apprenticeship
18 program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW or equivalent apprenticeship
19 program approved by the department for the electrical construction
20 trade; (ii) learning the electrical construction trade while working
21 in a specialty; or (iii) learning the electrical construction trade

1 in a program described in RCW 19.28.191(1) (e) or (f) for a journey
2 level certificate of competency may work in the electrical
3 construction trade if supervised by a certified master journey level
4 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
5 in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician in that
6 electrician's specialty.

7 (b) All apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
8 construction trade shall obtain an electrical training certificate
9 from the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to
10 learn the electrical construction trade while under the direct
11 supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level
12 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
13 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
14 electrician's specialty. The certificate may include a photograph of
15 the holder. The holder of the electrical training certificate shall
16 renew the certificate biennially. At the time of renewal, the holder
17 shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's
18 employers in the electrical construction industry for the previous
19 biennial period and the number of hours worked for each employer. The
20 holder shall also provide proof of (~~forty-eight~~) 48 hours of:
21 Approved classroom training covering this chapter, the national
22 electrical code, or electrical theory; or equivalent classroom
23 training taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program under
24 chapter 49.04 RCW or an approved electrical training program under
25 RCW 19.28.191(1) (e). A biennial fee shall be charged for the issuance
26 or renewal of the certificate. The department shall set the fee by
27 rule. The fee shall cover but not exceed the cost of administering
28 and enforcing the trainee certification and supervision requirements
29 of this chapter.

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

35 (ii) Unless working in a specialty, apprentices and individuals
36 learning the electrical construction trade must also have in their
37 possession proof of apprenticeship or training program registration.
38 They shall show their apprenticeship or training program registration
39 documents to an authorized representative of the department at the
40 representative's request.

1 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training
2 certificate under this chapter may work: (a) If that person is under
3 supervision, and is (b) unless working in a specialty, (i) registered
4 in an approved journey level apprenticeship program, as appropriate;
5 or (ii) learning the electrical construction trade in a program
6 described in RCW 19.28.191(1)(e) for a journey level certificate of
7 competency. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same
8 jobsite and under the control of either a certified master journey
9 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty
10 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
11 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Either a
12 certified master journey level electrician, journey level
13 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
14 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
15 electrician's specialty shall be on the same jobsite as the
16 noncertified individual for a minimum of (~~seventy-five~~) 75 percent
17 of each working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

18 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master
19 journey level electricians, journey level electricians, master
20 specialty electricians, or specialty electricians on any one jobsite
21 is as follows:

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

39 (b) When working as a journey level electrician, not more than
40 one noncertified individual for every certified master journey level

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

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

20 (5) For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)),
21 pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as
22 specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy (as specified in
23 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in
24 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as
25 determined by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential
26 specialties, not including appliance repair, as determined by the
27 department in rule, either a master journey level electrician,
28 journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in
29 that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in
30 that electrician's specialty must be on the same jobsite as the
31 noncertified individual for a minimum of (~~seventy-five~~) 75 percent
32 of each working day. Other specialties must meet the requirements
33 specified in RCW 19.28.191(1)(d)(ii). When the ratio of certified
34 electricians to noncertified individuals on a jobsite is one
35 certified electrician to three or four noncertified individuals, the
36 certified electrician must:

37 (a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals
38 and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an
39 electrical installation; and

1 (b) Be on the same jobsite as the noncertified individual for a
2 minimum of (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent of each working day.

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

6 (7) The department shall adopt rules to allow a person with an
7 electrical training certificate for a journey level electrician
8 apprenticeship program to also work under his or her valid specialty
9 electrician certificate of competency issued by the department while
10 participating in the program if:

11 (a) The person is participating in a program operated by an
12 apprenticeship committee representing a single employer;

13 (b) The person performs the specialty work for the employer under
14 (a) of this subsection; and

15 (c) The employer submits to the department a detailed attestation
16 of hours worked under the valid specialty electrician certificate of
17 competency on a quarterly basis.

--- END ---