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**HOUSE BILL 1681**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Klicker, Engell, Schmidt, Jacobsen, Connors, Eslick, Scott, and Ryu

Read first time 01/29/25. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing HVAC/refrigeration electricians to  
2 perform certain electrical work on ductless mini-split HVAC systems;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW; and creating a new  
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the  
7 installation of ductless mini-split systems has increased across the  
8 state as more customers look toward these systems for inexpensive,  
9 zonal heating and cooling. Energy codes and other laws pushing for  
10 more electrification of homes are also driving the move towards these  
11 HVAC systems. The legislature further finds that HVAC/refrigeration  
12 specialty electricians are trained and can safely connect the indoor  
13 units to the installed outdoor units in residential and multifamily  
14 homes, as the circuits are specified by the manufacturer, the type of  
15 cable used is standardized by manufacturers, and the terminals on  
16 both ends are coded. This is more cost-effective for consumers and  
17 efficient for home builders. It is also important to allow specialty  
18 electricians to do this type of work since there currently is a  
19 shortage of certified electricians in the state. The legislature  
20 therefore intends to update the scope of work for HVAC/refrigeration  
21 specialty electricians to allow them to install, repair, replace, or

1 maintain branch circuits from the outdoor unit to the indoor unit or  
2 units of a split ductless HVAC system in residential and multifamily  
3 homes and other appropriate construction classifications designated  
4 by the department of labor and industries.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.28  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The scope of work for the HVAC/refrigeration specialty or  
8 specialties involves installing, repairing, replacing, or maintaining  
9 HVAC/refrigeration systems and related equipment as specified by  
10 rules adopted by the department under this chapter.

11 (2) In addition to the scope of work specified in rules as  
12 provided under subsection (1) of this section, for ductless mini-  
13 split HVAC/refrigeration systems installed for one and two-family  
14 dwellings, multifamily dwellings of types III, IV, or V construction  
15 when there are not more than six stories of multifamily dwellings of  
16 types III, IV, or V construction above grade or above types I or II  
17 construction or installed for other than residential occupancies that  
18 have no more than three stories on or above grade, and other  
19 construction types so designated by the department, the scope of work  
20 for specialties under this section must include the installation,  
21 repair, replacement, and maintenance of the following:

22 (a) Single phase circuits not exceeding 250 volts or 20 amps when  
23 those circuits are supplied from supplementary overcurrent devices in  
24 outdoor compressor or condenser units and distribution controllers of  
25 mini-split HVAC/refrigeration systems;

26 (b) Wiring for condensate pumps connected to single phase branch  
27 circuits under (a) of this subsection when wiring is connected in  
28 accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for the mini-split  
29 HVAC/refrigeration system;

30 (c) Disconnect switches and device, pull, and junction boxes,  
31 conduit bodies, and fittings when used for single phase circuits  
32 allowed under (a) of this subsection; and

33 (d) Raceway or conduit systems for single phase branch circuits  
34 allowed under this section when the raceway or conduit system is  
35 installed outside of a building or when the raceway or conduit system  
36 is no more than six feet in length when connected to equipment  
37 located indoors.

38 (3) In order for work to be covered by subsection (2)(a) through  
39 (d) of this section, the HVAC/refrigeration equipment installed must

1 be certified for use as a system by an electrical product testing  
2 laboratory accredited by the department, and the manufacturer's  
3 instructions provided for the system must include specifications for  
4 type and size of wiring between outdoor compressor and condenser  
5 units, distribution controllers, and indoor evaporators.

6 (4) This section does not modify or limit the department's  
7 authority to modify the scope of work for specialties under this  
8 section, provided that the scope of work does not exclude those  
9 specialties from conducting the work described in subsection (2) of  
10 this section.

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