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**HOUSE BILL 2494**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Obras, Berry, Parshley, Scott, Reeves, Nance, Ormsby, Hill, Pollet, and Reed; by request of Department of Labor & Industries

Read first time 01/15/26. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards.

1 AN ACT Relating to department of labor and industries' authority  
2 to enact rules related to regulating asbestos training; and amending  
3 RCW 49.26.110.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 49.26.110 and 2011 c 301 s 14 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) No employee or other individual is eligible to do work  
8 governed by this chapter unless issued a certificate by the  
9 department.

10 (2) To qualify for a certificate:

11 (a) Certified asbestos workers must have successfully completed a  
12 four-day training course. Certified asbestos supervisors must have  
13 completed a five-day training course. Training courses shall be  
14 provided or approved by the department; shall cover such topics as  
15 the health and safety aspects of the removal and encapsulation of  
16 asbestos, including but not limited to the federal and state  
17 standards regarding protective clothing, respirator use, disposal,  
18 air monitoring, cleaning, and decontamination; and shall meet such  
19 additional qualifications as may be established by the department by  
20 rule for the type of certification sought. The department may require  
21 the successful completion of annual refresher courses provided or

1 approved by the department for continued certification as an asbestos  
2 worker or supervisor (~~(. However, the authority of the director to~~  
3 ~~adopt rules implementing this section is limited to rules that are~~  
4 ~~specifically required, and only to the extent specifically required,~~  
5 ~~for the standards to be as stringent as the applicable federal laws~~  
6 ~~governing work subject to this chapter)); and~~

7 (b) All applicants for certification as asbestos workers or  
8 supervisors must pass an examination in the type of certification  
9 sought which shall be provided or approved by the department.

10 These requirements are intended to represent the minimum  
11 requirements for certification and shall not preclude contractors or  
12 employers from providing additional education or training.

13 (3) The department shall provide for the reciprocal certification  
14 of any individual trained to engage in asbestos projects in another  
15 state when the prior training is shown to be substantially similar to  
16 the training required by the department. Nothing shall prevent the  
17 department from requiring such individuals to take an examination or  
18 refresher course before certification.

19 (4) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke a certificate, as  
20 provided under RCW 49.26.140, for failure of the holder to comply  
21 with any requirement of this chapter or chapter 49.17 RCW, or any  
22 rule adopted under those chapters, or applicable health and safety  
23 standards and regulations. In addition to any penalty imposed under  
24 RCW 49.26.016, the department may suspend or revoke any certificate  
25 issued under this chapter for a period of not less than six months  
26 upon the following grounds:

27 (a) The certificate was obtained through error or fraud; or

28 (b) The holder thereof is judged to be incompetent to carry out  
29 the work for which the certificate was issued.

30 Before any certificate may be denied, suspended, or revoked, the  
31 holder thereof shall be given written notice of the department's  
32 intention to do so, mailed using a method by which the mailing can be  
33 tracked or the delivery can be confirmed to the holder's last known  
34 address. The notice shall enumerate the allegations against such  
35 holder, and shall give him or her the opportunity to request a  
36 hearing before the department. At such hearing, the department and  
37 the holder shall have opportunity to produce witnesses and give  
38 testimony.

39 (5) A denial, suspension, or revocation order may be appealed to  
40 the board of industrial insurance appeals within (~~(fifteen)~~) 15

1 working days after the denial, suspension, or revocation order is  
2 entered. The notice of appeal may be filed with the department or the  
3 board of industrial insurance appeals. The board of industrial  
4 insurance appeals shall hold the hearing in accordance with  
5 procedures established in RCW 49.17.140. Any party aggrieved by an  
6 order of the board of industrial insurance appeals may obtain  
7 superior court review in the manner provided in RCW 49.17.150.

8 (6) Each person certified under this chapter shall display, upon  
9 the request of an authorized representative of the department, valid  
10 identification issued by the department.

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