
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5265

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators King, Boehnke, Chapman, Dozier, and Harris)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding minimum requirements for electrical
2 inspectors to include certain out-of-state experience; and amending
3 RCW 19.28.321.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.321 and 2024 c 196 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

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

1 electrical inspector, subject to the review of the director, shall
2 provide the final interpretation of the disputed standard, rule, or
3 policy. All electrical inspectors appointed by the director of labor
4 and industries shall have not less than: Four years experience as
5 journey level electricians in the electrical construction trade
6 installing and maintaining electrical wiring and equipment; a journey
7 level electrician certificate issued by the department and eight
8 years of experience in the electrical construction trade installing
9 and maintaining electrical wiring and equipment, four years of which
10 occurred after obtaining a journey level electrician license or
11 certificate by examination from another state electrical licensing or
12 certification authority that has a reciprocal licensing agreement
13 with the department for journey level electricians; or four years
14 experience as a journey level electrician performing the duties of an
15 electrical inspector employed by the department or a city or town
16 with an approved inspection program under RCW 19.28.141, except that
17 for work performed in accordance with the national electrical safety
18 code and covered by this chapter, such inspections may be performed
19 by a person certified as an outside journeyperson lineworker, under
20 RCW 19.28.261(5)(b), with four years experience or a person with four
21 years experience as a certified outside journeyperson lineworker
22 performing the duties of an electrical inspector employed by an
23 electrical utility. Such state inspectors shall be paid such salary
24 as the director of labor and industries shall determine, together
25 with their travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and
26 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. As a condition of
27 employment, inspectors hired exclusively to perform inspections in
28 accordance with the national electrical safety code must possess and
29 maintain certification as an outside journeyperson lineworker. The
30 expenses of the director of labor and industries and the salaries and
31 expenses of state inspectors incurred in carrying out the provisions
32 of this chapter shall be paid entirely out of the electrical license
33 fund, upon vouchers approved by the director of labor and industries.

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