
SENATE BILL 5265

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators King, Boehnke, Chapman, Dozier, and Harris

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

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; or four years experience as a journey level
13 electrician performing the duties of an electrical inspector employed
14 by the department or a city or town with an approved inspection
15 program under RCW 19.28.141, except that for work performed in
16 accordance with the national electrical safety code and covered by
17 this chapter, such inspections may be performed by a person certified
18 as an outside journeyperson lineworker, under RCW 19.28.261(5)(b),
19 with four years experience or a person with four years experience as
20 a certified outside journeyperson lineworker performing the duties of
21 an electrical inspector employed by an electrical utility. Such state
22 inspectors shall be paid such salary as the director of labor and
23 industries shall determine, together with their travel expenses in
24 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or
25 hereafter amended. As a condition of employment, inspectors hired
26 exclusively to perform inspections in accordance with the national
27 electrical safety code must possess and maintain certification as an
28 outside journeyperson lineworker. The expenses of the director of
29 labor and industries and the salaries and expenses of state
30 inspectors incurred in carrying out the provisions of this chapter
31 shall be paid entirely out of the electrical license fund, upon
32 vouchers approved by the director of labor and industries.

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