

WSR 26-01-100
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

[Filed December 16, 2025, 8:32 a.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Electrical rules; chapter 296-46B WAC, Electrical safety standards, administration, and installation, excluding WAC 296-46B-935 Administrator certificate, and 296-46B-960 Administrator and electrician certificate of competency examinations.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: Chapter 19.28 RCW, Electricians and electrical installations, including RCW 19.28.031 and 19.28.251.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: The department of labor and industries' (L&I) electrical program is reviewing the electrical rules under chapter 296-46B WAC and new safety codes from the 2026 edition of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 70, the National Electrical Code (NEC). The purpose of this review is to consider amendments to the adopted 2026 NEC safety codes, to update and clarify existing rules, and make housekeeping and other rule changes. The 2026 NEC (NFPA 70-2026) will replace the current 2023 NEC (NFPA 70-2023) standards on December 31, 2026.

The electrical rules are reviewed every three years, or each code cycle, to ensure the rules are consistent with national electrical safety standards and industry practice. The review process provides Washington's electrical stakeholders the opportunity to review the existing rules, submit proposals for changes to the rules, and provide recommendations to L&I regarding adoption of the rules, prior to NEC implementation.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: None.

Process for Developing New Rule: Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rules and formulation of the proposed rules before publication by contacting the individual listed below. The public can also participate after amendments are proposed by providing written comments and/or testimony during the public hearing and comment process. All rule proposals will be reviewed by the technical advisory committee (TAC) and the electrical board.

L&I is seeking input from interested parties to be used in the formulation of the proposed electrical rules. Interested parties may submit rule proposals for changes to the rules through February 13, 2026.

L&I is also appointing a general TAC made up of experts and interested group representatives to review and make recommendations on proposals from the electrical industry. Interested parties may submit an application to become a TAC member and participate in the rule development process through February 13, 2026.

For more information on this rule making, visit the L&I website at <https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/laws-rules-policies#rule-development> or contact the individual below.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Meagan Edwards, L&I, Customer Service, Compliance, and Public Safety Division, P.O. Box 44400, Olympia, WA 98504-4400, phone 360-522-0125, fax 360-704-1980, email FSPSRules@Lni.wa.gov.

Additional comments: For more information about this rule making, visit <https://www.lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/electrical/laws-rules-policies#rule-development>, or L&I's rule-making activity web page at <https://www.Lni.wa.gov/rulemaking-activity/>.

December 16, 2025
Joel Sacks
Director