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HOUSE BILL 1952

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Blake, J. Walsh, Pellicciotti, Chapman, and Stambaugh

1 AN ACT Relating to enforcement of the electrical laws; amending  
2 RCW 19.28.010; adding a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW; and  
3 prescribing penalties.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.010 and 2001 c 211 s 2 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) All wires and equipment, and installations thereof, that  
8 convey electric current and installations of equipment to be operated  
9 by electric current, in, on, or about buildings or structures, except  
10 for telephone, telegraph, radio, and television wires and equipment,  
11 and television antenna installations, signal strength amplifiers, and  
12 coaxial installations pertaining thereto shall be in strict  
13 conformity with this chapter, the statutes of the state of  
14 Washington, and the rules issued by the department, and shall be in  
15 conformity with approved methods of construction for safety to life  
16 and property. All wires and equipment that fall within section  
17 90.2(b)(5) of the National Electrical Code, 1981 edition, are exempt  
18 from the requirements of this chapter. The regulations and articles  
19 in the National Electrical Code, the national electrical safety code,  
20 and other installation and safety regulations approved by the  
21 national fire protection association, as modified or supplemented by

1 rules issued by the department in furtherance of safety to life and  
2 property under authority hereby granted, shall be prima facie  
3 evidence of the approved methods of construction. All materials,  
4 devices, appliances, and equipment used in such installations shall  
5 be of a type that conforms to applicable standards or be indicated as  
6 acceptable by the established standards of any electrical product  
7 testing laboratory which is accredited by the department. Industrial  
8 control panels, utilization equipment, and their components do not  
9 need to be listed, labeled, or otherwise indicated as acceptable by  
10 an accredited electrical product testing laboratory unless  
11 specifically required by the National Electrical Code, 1993 edition.

12 (2) Residential buildings or structures moved into or within a  
13 county, city, or town are not required to comply with all of the  
14 requirements of this chapter, if the original occupancy  
15 classification of the building or structure is not changed as a  
16 result of the move. This subsection shall not apply to residential  
17 buildings or structures that are substantially remodeled or  
18 rehabilitated.

19 (3) This chapter shall not limit the authority or power of any  
20 city or town to enact and enforce under authority given by law, any  
21 ordinance, rule, or regulation requiring an equal, higher, or better  
22 standard of construction and an equal, higher, or better standard of  
23 materials, devices, appliances, and equipment than that required by  
24 this chapter. A city or town shall require that its electrical  
25 inspectors meet the qualifications provided for state electrical  
26 inspectors in accordance with RCW 19.28.321. In a city or town having  
27 an equal, higher, or better standard the installations, materials,  
28 devices, appliances, and equipment shall be in accordance with the  
29 ordinance, rule, or regulation of the city or town.

30 (4) The officials of all incorporated cities and towns where  
31 electrical inspections are required by local ordinances shall have  
32 the power and it shall be their duty to enforce the provisions of RCW  
33 19.28.041, 19.28.161, 19.28.271(1), and 19.28.420(1) and applicable  
34 licensing and certification rules within their respective  
35 jurisdictions. Nothing in this subsection diminishes the authority of  
36 the department to enforce the provisions of RCW 19.28.041, 19.28.161,  
37 19.28.271(1), and 19.28.420(1), and applicable licensing and  
38 certification rules within any city or town.

39 (5) Electrical equipment associated with spas, hot tubs, swimming  
40 pools, and hydromassage bathtubs shall not be offered for sale or

1 exchange unless the electrical equipment is certified as being in  
2 compliance with the applicable product safety standard by bearing the  
3 certification mark of an approved electrical products testing  
4 laboratory.

5 ~~((4))~~ (6) Nothing in this chapter may be construed as  
6 permitting the connection of any conductor of any electric circuit  
7 with a pipe that is connected with or designed to be connected with a  
8 waterworks piping system, without the consent of the person or  
9 persons legally responsible for the operation and maintenance of the  
10 waterworks piping system.

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

13 (1) In matters of enforcement of this chapter by officials of  
14 incorporated cities and towns where electrical inspections are  
15 required by local ordinances, any person, firm, partnership,  
16 corporation, or other entity found in violation of RCW 19.28.161 or  
17 19.28.271 must be assessed a penalty of not less than fifty dollars  
18 or more than five hundred dollars. Any person, firm, partnership,  
19 corporation, or other entity violating any of the provisions of RCW  
20 19.28.141 must be assessed a penalty of not less than fifty dollars  
21 or more than ten thousand dollars. Any person, firm, partnership,  
22 corporation, or other entity violating any of the provisions of RCW  
23 19.28.420 may be assessed a penalty of not less than one hundred  
24 dollars or more than ten thousand dollars per violation.

25 (2) RCW 19.28.131, 19.28.271 (2) and (3), and 19.28.490 do not  
26 apply in matters of enforcement of this chapter by officials of  
27 incorporated cities and towns where electrical inspections are  
28 required by local ordinances.

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