
SENATE BILL 6126

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Senators Saldaña, Hasegawa, Chase, Conway, Zeiger, and Keiser

Read first time 01/09/18. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring completion of an apprenticeship
2 program to receive a journey level electrician certificate of
3 competency; amending RCW 19.28.191, 19.28.161, and 19.28.205; and
4 adding a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2016 c 198 s 2 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review
9 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to
10 take an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey
11 level electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty
12 electrician certificate of competency.

13 (a) ~~((Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid~~
14 ~~journey level electrician certificate of competency in effect for the~~
15 ~~previous four years and a valid general administrator's certificate~~
16 ~~may apply for a master journey level electrician certificate of~~
17 ~~competency without examination.~~

18 (b) ~~Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid~~
19 ~~specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty~~
20 ~~applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty~~
21 ~~administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply~~

1 ~~for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without~~
2 ~~examination.~~

3 ~~(c) Before December 1, 2003, the following persons may obtain an~~
4 ~~equipment repair specialty electrician certificate of competency~~
5 ~~without examination:~~

6 ~~(i) A person who has successfully completed an apprenticeship~~
7 ~~program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the machinist trade; and~~

8 ~~(ii) A person who provides evidence in a form prescribed by the~~
9 ~~department affirming that: (A) He or she was employed as of April 1,~~
10 ~~2003, by a factory authorized equipment dealer or service company;~~
11 ~~and (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of~~
12 ~~four thousand hours.~~

13 ~~(d))~~ To be eligible to take the examination for a master journey
14 level electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have
15 possessed a valid journey level electrician certificate of competency
16 for four years.

17 ~~((e))~~ (b) To be eligible to take the examination for a master
18 specialty electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must
19 have possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of
20 competency, in the specialty applied for, for two years.

21 ~~((f))~~ (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey
22 level certificate of competency, the applicant must have ~~((~~

23 ~~(i))~~ successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved
24 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade in
25 which the applicant worked in the electrical construction trade for a
26 minimum of eight thousand hours~~((, of which))~~. Four thousand of the
27 hours shall be in industrial or commercial electrical installation
28 under the supervision of a master journey level electrician or
29 journey level electrician and not more than a total of four thousand
30 hours in all specialties under the supervision of a master journey
31 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty
32 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
33 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Specialty
34 electricians with less than a four thousand hour work experience
35 requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain that specialty
36 towards qualifying to become a journey level electrician~~((; or~~

37 ~~(ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved~~
38 ~~under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade))~~. The
39 holder of a specialty electrician certificate of competency with a
40 four thousand hour work experience requirement shall be allowed to

1 credit the work experience required to obtain that certificate
2 towards apprenticeship requirements for qualifying to take the
3 examination for a journey level electrician certificate of
4 competency.

5 ((~~g~~)(~~i~~)) (d) To be eligible to take the examination for ((~~a~~))
6 the following specialty electrician certificates of competency, the
7 applicant must have:

8 ((~~A~~)) (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC
9 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC
10 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),
11 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),
12 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),
13 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the
14 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level
15 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
16 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
17 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of four
18 thousand hours;

19 ((~~B~~)) (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as
20 determined by the department in rule, restricted nonresidential
21 maintenance as determined by the department in rule, the equipment
22 repair specialty as determined by the department in rule, the pump
23 and irrigation specialty other than as defined by ((~~g~~)) (d)(i)
24 ((~~A~~)) of this subsection or domestic pump specialty as determined
25 by the department in rule, or a specialty other than the designated
26 specialties in ((~~g~~)) (d)(i)((~~A~~)) of this subsection for a minimum
27 of the initial ninety days, or longer if set by rule by the
28 department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty is
29 limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for lighting branch
30 circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes for other
31 circuits excluding the replacement or repair of circuit breakers. The
32 department may alter the scope of work for the restricted
33 nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule. The initial period must
34 be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a master journey
35 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty
36 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
37 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After this
38 initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If the
39 person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised for
40 the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A person

1 may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the appliance
2 repair specialty or in a specialty other than the designated
3 specialties in ~~((g))~~ (d)(i)~~((A))~~ of this subsection, however,
4 until the person has worked a minimum of two thousand hours in that
5 specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department; ~~((e~~
6 ~~(c))~~ (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship
7 program under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the
8 electrical construction trade~~((r))~~; or
9 ~~((ii))~~ (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump
10 and irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be
11 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same
12 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW
13 18.106.040(1)(c). After meeting the training requirements provided in
14 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon
15 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as
16 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a
17 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying
18 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate
19 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty
20 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) with the
21 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in
22 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional
23 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this
24 subsection. Individuals who are able to provide evidence to the
25 department, prior to January 1, 2007, that they have been employed as
26 a pump installer in the pump and irrigation or domestic pump business
27 by an appropriately licensed electrical contractor, registered
28 general contractor defined by chapter 18.27 RCW, or appropriate
29 general specialty contractor defined by chapter 18.27 RCW for not
30 less than eight thousand hours in the most recent six calendar years
31 shall be issued the appropriate certificate by the department upon
32 receiving such documentation and applicable fees. The department
33 shall establish a single document for those who have received both an
34 electrical specialty certification as defined by this subsection and
35 have also met the certification requirements for the specialty
36 plumber as defined by RCW 18.106.010(10)(c), showing that the
37 individual has received both certifications. No other experience or
38 training requirements may be imposed.
39 ~~((iii) Before July 1, 2015, an applicant possessing an~~
40 ~~electrical training certificate issued by the department is eligible~~

1 to apply one hour of every two hours of unsupervised
2 telecommunications system installation work experience toward
3 eligibility for examination for a limited energy system certificate
4 of competency (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), if:

5 (A) The telecommunications work experience was obtained while
6 employed by a contractor licensed under this chapter as a general
7 electrical contractor (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(1)) or limited
8 energy system specialty contractor (as specified in WAC
9 296-46B-920(2)(e)); and

10 (B) Evidence of the telecommunications work experience is
11 submitted in the form of an affidavit prescribed by the department.

12 (h)) (e) Any applicant for a journey level electrician
13 certificate of competency who has successfully completed a two-year
14 program in the electrical construction trade at public community or
15 technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical
16 or trade schools licensed by the workforce training and education
17 coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to two
18 years of the technical or trade school program for two years of work
19 experience under a master journey level electrician or journey level
20 electrician required under the apprenticeship program. The applicant
21 shall obtain the additional two years of work experience required in
22 industrial or commercial electrical installation prior to the
23 beginning, or after the completion, of the technical school program.
24 Any applicant who has received training in the electrical
25 construction trade in the armed service of the United States may be
26 eligible to apply armed service work experience towards qualification
27 to complete an apprenticeship and take the examination for the
28 journey level electrician certificate of competency.

29 ((+)) (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate
30 of competency who(, after January 1, 2000,) has successfully
31 completed a two-year program in the electrical construction trade at
32 a public community or technical college, or a not-for-profit
33 nationally accredited technical or trade school licensed by the
34 workforce training and education coordinating board under chapter
35 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade
36 school program for one year of work experience under a master journey
37 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty
38 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
39 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant
40 who has received training in the electrical construction trade in the

1 armed services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed
2 service work experience towards qualification to take the examination
3 for an appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

4 ~~((+j))~~ (g) The department must determine whether hours of
5 training and experience in the armed services or school program are
6 in the electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute
7 for hours of work experience. The department must use the following
8 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical
9 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

10 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of three
11 thousand or more hours.

12 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of two
13 thousand four hundred hours of student/instructor contact time must
14 be technical electrical instruction directly related to the scope of
15 work of the electrical specialty. Student/instructor contact time
16 includes lecture and in-school lab.

17 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that
18 accepts more than one thousand hours transferred from another
19 school's program.

20 (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than
21 two years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time
22 hours proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more
23 than fifty percent of the work experience required to attain
24 certification.

25 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not
26 be credited towards qualification for journey level electrician
27 unless the training program is used to gain qualification for a four
28 thousand hour electrical specialty.

29 ~~((+k))~~ (h) Up to four thousand hours are transferable to an
30 appropriate apprenticeship program at the discretion of the committee
31 in accordance with the standards of apprenticeship.

32 (i) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

33 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
34 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.
35 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the
36 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
37 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
38 the time and place for taking the examination.

39 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than
40 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test

1 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after
2 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of
3 this section, "full-time basis" means two thousand hours.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.28.161 and 2013 c 23 s 29 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) No person may engage in the electrical construction trade
7 without having a valid master journey level electrician certificate
8 of competency, journey level electrician certificate of competency,
9 master specialty electrician certificate of competency, or specialty
10 electrician certificate of competency issued by the department in
11 accordance with this chapter. Electrician certificate of competency
12 specialties include, but are not limited to: Residential, pump and
13 irrigation, limited energy system, signs, nonresidential maintenance,
14 restricted nonresidential maintenance, and appliance repair. ~~((Until
15 July 1, 2007, the department of labor and industries shall issue a
16 written warning to any specialty pump and irrigation or domestic pump
17 electrician not having a valid electrician certification. The warning
18 will state that the individual must apply for an electrical training
19 certificate or be qualified for and apply for electrician
20 certification under the requirements in RCW 19.28.191(1)(g) within
21 thirty calendar days of the warning. Only one warning will be issued
22 to any individual. If the individual fails to comply with this
23 section, the department shall issue a penalty as defined in RCW
24 19.28.271 to the individual.))~~

25 (2)(a) A person who is ~~((indentured))~~: (i) Registered in an
26 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW for the
27 electrical construction trade ~~((or who is))~~; (ii) learning the
28 electrical construction trade; or (iii) learning the electrical
29 construction trade in a program described in RCW 19.28.191(1) (e) or
30 (f) for a journey level certificate of competency may work in the
31 electrical construction trade if supervised by a certified master
32 journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master
33 specialty electrician in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
34 electrician in that electrician's specialty.

35 (b) All apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
36 construction trade shall obtain an electrical training certificate
37 from the department. The certificate shall authorize the holder to
38 learn the electrical construction trade while under the direct
39 supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level

1 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
2 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
3 electrician's specialty. The certificate may include a photograph of
4 the holder. The holder of the electrical training certificate shall
5 renew the certificate biennially. At the time of renewal, the holder
6 shall provide the department with an accurate list of the holder's
7 employers in the electrical construction industry for the previous
8 biennial period and the number of hours worked for each employer. The
9 holder shall also provide proof of ~~((sixteen))~~ forty-eight hours of:
10 Approved classroom training covering this chapter, the national
11 electrical code, or electrical theory; or equivalent classroom
12 training taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program under
13 chapter 49.04 RCW or an approved electrical training program under
14 RCW 19.28.191(1)~~((+h))~~ (e). ~~((The number of hours of approved
15 classroom training required for certificate renewal shall increase as
16 follows: (a) Beginning on July 1, 2011, the holder of an electrical
17 training certificate shall provide the department with proof of
18 thirty two hours of approved classroom training; and (b) beginning on
19 July 1, 2013, the holder of an electrical training certificate shall
20 provide the department with proof of forty eight hours of approved
21 classroom training. At the request of the chairs of the house of
22 representatives commerce and labor committee and the senate labor,
23 commerce and consumer protection committee, or their successor
24 committees, the department of labor and industries shall provide
25 information on the implementation of the new classroom training
26 requirements for electrical trainees to both committees by December
27 1, 2012.))~~ A biennial fee shall be charged for the issuance or
28 renewal of the certificate. The department shall set the fee by rule.
29 The fee shall cover but not exceed the cost of administering and
30 enforcing the trainee certification and supervision requirements of
31 this chapter.

32 (c)(i) Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
33 construction trade shall have their electrical training certificates
34 in their possession at all times that they are performing electrical
35 work. They shall show their certificates to an authorized
36 representative of the department at the representative's request.

37 (ii) Apprentices and individuals learning the electrical
38 construction trade must also have in their possession proof of
39 apprenticeship or training program registration. They shall show
40 their apprenticeship or training program registration documents to an

1 authorized representative of the department at the representative's
2 request. This subsection (2)(c)(ii) does not apply to individuals
3 working in a specialty.

4 (3) Any person who has been issued an electrical training
5 certificate under this chapter may work: (a) If that person is under
6 supervision, and is (b)(i) registered in an approved journey level
7 apprenticeship program, as appropriate; or (ii) learning the
8 electrical construction trade in a program described in RCW
9 19.28.191(1) (e) or (f) for a journey level certificate of
10 competency. Supervision shall consist of a person being on the same
11 job site and under the control of either a certified master journey
12 level electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty
13 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty
14 electrician working in that electrician's specialty. Either a
15 certified master journey level electrician, journey level
16 electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
17 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
18 electrician's specialty shall be on the same job site as the
19 noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each
20 working day unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

21 (4) The ratio of noncertified individuals to certified master
22 journey level electricians, journey level electricians, master
23 specialty electricians, or specialty electricians on any one job site
24 is as follows:

25 (a) When working as a specialty electrician, not more than two
26 noncertified individuals for every certified master specialty
27 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, specialty
28 electrician working in that electrician's specialty, master journey
29 level electrician, or journey level electrician, except that the
30 ratio requirements are one certified master specialty electrician
31 working in that electrician's specialty, specialty electrician
32 working in that electrician's specialty, master journey level
33 electrician, or journey level electrician working as a specialty
34 electrician to no more than four students enrolled in and working as
35 part of an electrical construction program at public community or
36 technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited trade or
37 technical schools licensed by the workforce training and education
38 coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW. In meeting the ratio
39 requirements for students enrolled in an electrical construction

1 program at a trade school, a trade school may receive input and
2 advice from the electrical board; and

3 (b) When working as a journey level electrician, not more than
4 one noncertified individual for every certified master journey level
5 electrician or journey level electrician, except that the ratio
6 requirements shall be one certified master journey level electrician
7 or journey level electrician to no more than four students enrolled
8 in and working as part of an electrical construction program at
9 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
10 accredited trade or technical schools licensed by the workforce
11 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW.
12 In meeting the ratio requirements for students enrolled in an
13 electrical construction program at a trade school, a trade school may
14 receive input and advice from the electrical board.

15 An individual who has a current training certificate and who has
16 successfully completed or is currently enrolled in an approved
17 apprenticeship program or in an electrical construction program at
18 public community or technical colleges, or not-for-profit nationally
19 accredited technical or trade schools licensed by the workforce
20 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,
21 may work without direct on-site supervision during the last six
22 months of meeting the practical experience requirements of this
23 chapter.

24 (5) For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)),
25 pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as
26 specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy (as specified in
27 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in
28 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as
29 determined by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential
30 specialties, not including appliance repair, as determined by the
31 department in rule, either a master journey level electrician,
32 journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in
33 that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in
34 that electrician's specialty must be on the same job site as the
35 noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each
36 working day. Other specialties must meet the requirements specified
37 in RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(g)~~) (d)(ii). When the ratio of certified
38 electricians to noncertified individuals on a job site is one
39 certified electrician to three or four noncertified individuals, the
40 certified electrician must:

1 (a) Directly supervise and instruct the noncertified individuals
2 and the certified electrician may not directly make or engage in an
3 electrical installation; and

4 (b) Be on the same job site as the noncertified individual for a
5 minimum of one hundred percent of each working day.

6 (6) The electrical contractor shall accurately verify and attest
7 to the electrical trainee hours worked by electrical trainees on
8 behalf of the electrical contractor.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.28.205 and 2013 c 23 s 32 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) An applicant for a journey level certificate of competency
12 under RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(f)~~) (c) or a specialty electrician
13 certificate of competency under RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(g)~~) (d) must
14 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department completion of in-
15 class education as follows:

16 (a) Twenty-four hours of in-class education if two thousand hours
17 or more but less than four thousand hours of work are required for
18 the certificate;

19 (b) Forty-eight hours of in-class education if four thousand or
20 more but less than six thousand hours of work are required for the
21 certificate;

22 (c) Seventy-two hours of in-class education if six thousand or
23 more but less than eight thousand hours of work are required for the
24 certificate;

25 (d) Ninety-six hours of in-class education if eight thousand or
26 more hours of work are required for the certificate.

27 (2) For purposes of this section, "in-class education" means
28 approved classroom training covering this chapter, the national
29 electric code, or electrical theory; or equivalent classroom training
30 taken as part of an approved apprenticeship program under chapter
31 49.04 RCW or an approved electrical training program under RCW
32 19.28.191(1)(~~(h)~~) (e).

33 (3) Classroom training taken to qualify for trainee certificate
34 renewal under RCW 19.28.161 qualifies as in-class education under
35 this section.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 19.28
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The department may permit an applicant who obtained
2 experience and training equivalent to a journey level apprenticeship
3 program to take the examination if the applicant establishes that the
4 applicant has the equivalent training and experience and demonstrates
5 good cause for not completing the required minimum hours of work
6 under standards applicable on the effective date of this section.

7 (2) This section expires July 1, 2023.

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