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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6126**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2018 Regular Session**

**By Senate Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Saldaña, Hasegawa, Chase, Conway, Zeiger, Keiser, and Kuderer)**

READ FIRST TIME 01/17/18.

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; adding  
4 a new section to chapter 19.28 RCW; providing an effective date; and  
5 providing an expiration date.

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

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

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

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

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

1 administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply  
2 for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without  
3 examination.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 ~~(ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved~~  
40 ~~under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade)). The~~

1 holder of a specialty electrician certificate of competency with a  
2 four thousand hour work experience requirement shall be allowed to  
3 credit the work experience required to obtain that certificate  
4 towards apprenticeship requirements for qualifying to take the  
5 examination for a journey level electrician certificate of  
6 competency.

7 ((g)(i)) (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a  
8 specialty electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must  
9 have:

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

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

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

1       ~~((iii) Before July 1, 2015, an applicant possessing an~~  
2 ~~electrical training certificate issued by the department is eligible~~  
3 ~~to apply one hour of every two hours of unsupervised~~  
4 ~~telecommunications system installation work experience toward~~  
5 ~~eligibility for examination for a limited energy system certificate~~  
6 ~~of competency (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), if:~~

7       ~~(A) The telecommunications work experience was obtained while~~  
8 ~~employed by a contractor licensed under this chapter as a general~~  
9 ~~electrical contractor (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(1)) or limited~~  
10 ~~energy system specialty contractor (as specified in WAC~~  
11 ~~296-46B-920(2)(e)); and~~

12       ~~(B) Evidence of the telecommunications work experience is~~  
13 ~~submitted in the form of an affidavit prescribed by the department.~~

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

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

1 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has  
2 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed  
3 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service  
4 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an  
5 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 ~~((+k))~~ (h) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

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

38 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than  
39 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test  
40 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after

1 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of  
2 this section, "full-time basis" means two thousand hours.

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

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

24 (2)(a) A person who is (~~indentured~~): (i) Registered in an  
25 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW or equivalent  
26 apprenticeship program approved by the department for the electrical  
27 construction trade (~~or who is~~); (ii) learning the electrical  
28 construction trade while working in a specialty; or (iii) learning  
29 the electrical construction trade in a program described in RCW  
30 19.28.191(1) (e) or (f) for a journey level certificate of competency  
31 may work in the electrical construction trade if supervised by a  
32 certified master journey level electrician, journey level  
33 electrician, master specialty electrician in that electrician's  
34 specialty, or specialty 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) Unless working in a specialty, apprentices and individuals  
38 learning the electrical construction trade must also have in their  
39 possession proof of apprenticeship or training program registration.  
40 They shall show their apprenticeship or training program registration



1 documents to an authorized representative of the department at the  
2 representative's request.

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

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

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

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

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

22 (5) For the residential (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(a)),  
23 pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as  
24 specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)), limited energy (as specified in  
25 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)), nonresidential maintenance (as specified in  
26 WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)), restricted nonresidential maintenance as  
27 determined by the department in rule, or other new nonresidential  
28 specialties, not including appliance repair, as determined by the  
29 department in rule, either a master journey level electrician,  
30 journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in  
31 that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in  
32 that electrician's specialty must be on the same job site as the  
33 noncertified individual for a minimum of seventy-five percent of each  
34 working day. Other specialties must meet the requirements specified  
35 in RCW 19.28.191(1)(~~(g)~~) (d)(ii). When the ratio of certified  
36 electricians to noncertified individuals on a job site is one  
37 certified electrician to three or four noncertified individuals, the  
38 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, 2025.

8           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.**   Sections 1 through 4 of this act take  
9 effect July 1, 2023.

--- END ---