
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5599

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senate Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Senators Saldaña, Keiser, Conway, Das, Hasegawa, Lias, Nobles, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to journey level electrician certifications of
2 competency; amending RCW 19.28.191; adding a new section to chapter
3 19.28 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW 19.28.195; providing
4 an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2020 c 153 s 26 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) 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 (b) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty
18 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have
19 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in
20 the specialty applied for, for two years.

1 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey level
2 certificate of competency, the applicant must have (~~successfully~~):

3 (i) Successfully completed (~~an~~) the work experience and
4 education requirements of an 8,000 hour electrical construction trade
5 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW (~~or~~
6 equivalent apprenticeship program approved by the department for the
7 electrical construction trade in which the applicant worked in the
8 electrical construction trade for a minimum of eight thousand
9 hours)). Four thousand of the hours shall be new electrical

10 installations in industrial or commercial (~~electrical installation~~)
11 facilities under the supervision of a master journey level
12 electrician or journey level electrician and not more than a total of
13 (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hours in all specialties under the
14 supervision of a 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. Specialty electricians with less than a
18 (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour work experience requirement cannot
19 credit the time required to obtain that specialty towards qualifying
20 to become a journey level electrician. The holder of a specialty
21 electrician certificate of competency with a (~~four thousand~~) 4,000
22 hour work experience requirement shall be allowed to credit the work
23 experience required to obtain that certificate towards apprenticeship
24 requirements for qualifying to take the examination for a journey
25 level electrician certificate of competency;

26 (ii) Successfully completed an 8,000 hour electrical construction
27 trade apprenticeship program in another jurisdiction equivalent to an
28 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW. Four
29 thousand of the hours shall be new electrical installations in
30 industrial or commercial facilities;

31 (iii) At least 16,000 hours experience in the electrical
32 construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and
33 equipment in another jurisdiction. Eight thousand of the hours shall
34 be new electrical installations in industrial or commercial
35 facilities; or

36 (iv) Eight thousand hours of experience in the electrical
37 construction trade while serving in a construction battalion in the
38 armed forces of the United States.

39 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty
40 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have:

1 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC
2 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC
3 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),
4 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),
5 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),
6 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the
7 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level
8 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
9 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
10 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of (~~four~~
11 ~~thousand~~) 4,000 hours;

12 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by
13 the department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as
14 determined by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty
15 as determined by the department in rule, the pump and irrigation
16 specialty other than as defined by (d)(i) of this subsection or
17 domestic pump specialty as determined by the department in rule, or a
18 specialty other than the designated specialties in (d)(i) of this
19 subsection for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set
20 by rule by the department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance
21 specialty is limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for
22 lighting branch circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes
23 for other circuits excluding the replacement or repair of circuit
24 breakers. The department may alter the scope of work for the
25 restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule. The initial
26 period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a
27 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master
28 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or
29 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After
30 this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If
31 the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised
32 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A
33 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the
34 appliance repair specialty or in a specialty other than the
35 designated specialties in (d)(i) of this subsection, however, until
36 the person has worked a minimum of (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours in
37 that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department;

38 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program
39 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the
40 electrical construction trade; or

1 (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and
2 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be
3 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same
4 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW
5 18.106.040(1)(d). After meeting the training requirements provided in
6 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon
7 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as
8 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a
9 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying
10 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate
11 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty
12 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(14)(c) with the
13 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in
14 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional
15 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this
16 subsection. The department shall establish a single document for
17 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as
18 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification
19 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW
20 18.106.010(14)(c), showing that the individual has received both
21 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be
22 imposed.

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

1 (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of
2 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a
3 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public
4 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally
5 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce
6 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,
7 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school
8 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level
9 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
10 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
11 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has
12 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed
13 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service
14 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an
15 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

16 (g) The department must determine whether hours of training and
17 experience in the armed services or school program are in the
18 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for
19 hours of work experience. The department must use the following
20 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical
21 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

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

24 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of
25 (~~two thousand four hundred~~) 2,400 hours of student/instructor
26 contact time must be technical electrical instruction directly
27 related to the scope of work of the electrical specialty. Student/
28 instructor contact time includes lecture and in-school lab.

29 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that
30 accepts more than (~~one thousand~~) 1,000 hours transferred from
31 another school's program.

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

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

1 (h) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

2 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
3 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.
4 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the
5 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
6 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
7 instructions for taking the examination.

8 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than
9 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test
10 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after
11 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of
12 this section, "full-time basis" means two thousand hours.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of labor and industries
14 must make recommendations to the legislature on potential solutions
15 and incentives to help rural electrical contractors come into
16 compliance with apprenticeship standards, including adequate
17 electrical apprenticeship capacity by October 31, 2022.

18 (2) In developing its recommendations under subsection (1) of
19 this section, the department of labor and industries must allow for
20 input from interested parties, including rural electrical
21 contractors, at no fewer than two meetings with this issue as a
22 topic, either at regularly scheduled meetings of the apprenticeship
23 council or its electrical standards subcommittee or any additional
24 meetings scheduled by the department of labor and industries or its
25 electrical standards subcommittee for implementing this section.
26 Additionally, the department of labor and industries must allow for
27 public comment on its final recommendations before providing its
28 recommendations to the legislature.

29 (3) This section expires October 31, 2023.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 19.28
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 Beginning no later than September 1, 2022, the department of
33 labor and industries must:

34 (1) Conduct an outreach program to educate employers and
35 electrical trainees about the changes to the requirements for the
36 journey level electrician certification taking effect on July 1,
37 2023; and

1 (2) Offer technical assistance to employers and training agents
2 to increase apprenticeship capacity for interested electrical
3 trainees to meet the requirements for the journey level electrician
4 certification taking effect July 1, 2023.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.28.195 (Examination—Exception for
6 equivalent training and experience) and 2018 c 249 s 4 are each
7 repealed.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 1 of this act takes effect July 1,
9 2023.

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