
SENATE BILL 6277

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senator Honeyford

1 AN ACT Relating to telecommunications work experience for purposes
2 of eligibility toward limited energy specialty electrician
3 certification; and amending RCW 19.28.191.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2013 c 23 s 30 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

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

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

17 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid
18 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty
19 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; and
12 (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of four
13 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) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty
19 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have
20 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in
21 the specialty applied for, for two years.

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

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

36 (ii) Successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved
37 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the electrical construction trade.

1 (g)(i) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty
2 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have:

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

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

37 ((+iii+)) (C) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship

1 program under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the
2 electrical construction trade(~~(i-iv)~~).

3 ~~((i-iv))~~ (ii) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and
4 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be
5 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same
6 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW
7 18.106.040(1)(c). After meeting the training requirements provided in
8 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon passing
9 the examination, meeting additional training requirements as may still
10 be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a domestic pump
11 specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying the applicable
12 fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate certificate. The
13 department may include an examination for specialty plumbing
14 certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) with the examination
15 required by this section. The department, by rule and in consultation
16 with the electrical board, may establish additional equivalent ways to
17 gain the experience requirements required by this subsection.
18 Individuals who are able to provide evidence to the department, prior
19 to January 1, 2007, that they have been employed as a pump installer in
20 the pump and irrigation or domestic pump business by an appropriately
21 licensed electrical contractor, registered general contractor defined
22 by chapter 18.27 RCW, or appropriate general specialty contractor
23 defined by chapter 18.27 RCW for not less than eight thousand hours in
24 the most recent six calendar years shall be issued the appropriate
25 certificate by the department upon receiving such documentation and
26 applicable fees. The department shall establish a single document for
27 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as
28 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification
29 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW
30 18.106.010(10)(c), showing that the individual has received both
31 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be
32 imposed.

33 (iii) Before July 1, 2015, an applicant possessing an electrical
34 training certificate issued by the department is eligible to apply one
35 hour of every two hours of unsupervised telecommunications system
36 installation work experience toward eligibility for examination for a
37 limited energy system certificate of competency (as specified in WAC
38 296-46B-920(2)(e)), if:

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

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

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

24 (i) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of
25 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a
26 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public
27 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally
28 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce training
29 and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may
30 substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school program for
31 one year of work experience under a master journey level electrician,
32 journey level electrician, master specialty electrician working in that
33 electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that
34 electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has received training in
35 the electrical construction trade in the armed services of the United
36 States may be eligible to apply armed service work experience towards
37 qualification to take the examination for an appropriate specialty
38 electrician certificate of competency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (k) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

26 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
27 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency. In
28 establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the board.
29 Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
30 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
31 the time and place for taking the examination.

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

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