

---

SENATE BILL 5281

---

State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Baumgartner, and Warnick

Read first time 01/19/15. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1            AN ACT Relating to nonresidential security system electricians;  
2 amending RCW 19.28.191; and adding a new section to chapter 19.28  
3 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    A new section is added to chapter 19.28  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7            (1) The department shall establish a nonresidential security  
8 system specialty electrician certificate.

9            (2) The scope of work for the nonresidential security system  
10 specialty involves the installation, maintenance, and repair of  
11 security, intrusion, and similar alarm systems in nonresidential  
12 structures and commercial units or facilities within multistory  
13 structures containing both commercial and residential dwelling units.

14            **Sec. 2.**    RCW 19.28.191 and 2014 c 156 s 2 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16            (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review  
17 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to  
18 take an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey  
19 level electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty  
20 electrician certificate of competency.

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

6 (b) Before July 1, 2005, an applicant who possesses a valid  
7 specialty electrician certificate of competency, in the specialty  
8 applied for, for the previous two years and a valid specialty  
9 administrator's certificate, in the specialty applied for, may apply  
10 for a master specialty electrician certificate of competency without  
11 examination.

12 (c) Before December 1, 2003, the following persons may obtain an  
13 equipment repair specialty electrician certificate of competency  
14 without examination:

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

17 (ii) A person who provides evidence in a form prescribed by the  
18 department affirming that: (A) He or she was employed as of April 1,  
19 2003, by a factory-authorized equipment dealer or service company;  
20 and (B) he or she has worked in equipment repair for a minimum of  
21 four thousand hours.

22 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journey  
23 level electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
24 possessed a valid journey level electrician certificate of competency  
25 for four years.

26 (e) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty  
27 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have  
28 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in  
29 the specialty applied for, for two years.

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

32 (i) Worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of  
33 eight thousand hours, of which four thousand hours shall be in  
34 industrial or commercial electrical installation under the  
35 supervision of a master journey level electrician or journey level  
36 electrician and not more than a total of four thousand hours in all  
37 specialties under the supervision of a master journey level  
38 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician  
39 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician  
40 working in that electrician's specialty. Specialty electricians with

1 less than a four thousand hour work experience requirement cannot  
2 credit the time required to obtain that specialty towards qualifying  
3 to become a journey level electrician; or

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

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

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

1 appliance repair specialty or in a specialty other than the  
2 designated specialties in (g)(i)(A) of this subsection, however,  
3 until the person has worked a minimum of two thousand hours in that  
4 specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department; or

5 (C) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program  
6 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the  
7 electrical construction trade.

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

38 (iii) Before July 1, 2015, an applicant possessing an electrical  
39 training certificate issued by the department is eligible to apply  
40 one hour of every two hours of unsupervised telecommunications system

1 installation work experience toward eligibility for examination for a  
2 limited energy system certificate of competency (as specified in WAC  
3 296-46B-920(2)(e)), if:

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

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

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

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

1 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an  
2 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than  
36 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test  
37 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.

--- END ---