

Question of the Month – The electrical program operates with funding from a dedicated account called the electrical license fund. [RCW 19.28.351](#) states the electrical license fund can only be used to accomplish the intent of [RCW 19.28](#), which is the law regulating Electricians and Electrical Installations. What is the intent of RCW 19.28? –*See the correct answer on Page 2.*

Legislative Updates 2015

If you are a part of the electrical or telecommunications sectors regulated by L&I, lawmakers are considering several bills this legislative session that may affect you. None of this legislation is sponsored by L&I. Take this opportunity to review the bills and comment if you desire. A comment button is located to the right of the bill number on each webpage hyperlinked below.

[House Bill 1315](#) - Requires L&I to grant a variance from the allowed scope of work, upon application, to a specialty electrician, a master specialty electrician, or a specialty plumber under certain circumstances.

[House Bill 1375](#) - Eliminates special immunities from prosecution for criminal trespass, whether those immunities have been legislatively granted to the government or to private persons or entities. This bill would compromise an inspector's ability to gain access to ensure electrical work complies with state laws and rules, and require property owners to be present for an electrical inspection, which would significantly reduce the number of inspections that could be performed with current inspection staff.

[House Bill 1590](#) - Requiring completion of an apprenticeship program to receive a journey level or residential specialty electrician certificate of competency. See previous 2014 [HB 2500](#).

[House Bill 1608](#) - Addresses certified HVAC/refrigeration specialty electricians and certified appliance repair specialty electricians concerning replacement of household appliances. See previous 2013 [SB 5682 - 2013-14](#) and [HB 1760 - 2013-14](#).

[House Bill 1609](#) - Exempts from the plumbing and electrical codes, minor or incidental work that does not require regulation for the protection of public health or safety.

[Senate Bill 5686](#) – Removes the ability of the Electrical Board to hear appeals of decisions by the Office of Administrative Hearings. Decisions made by an administrative law judge would be a final order.

[Senate Bill 5281](#) – Requires L&I to establish a 2,000 hour nonresidential security system specialty electrician certificate allowing a trainee to take the examination after 720 hours (or 90 days) of work experience and if successful, work alone installing these systems.

Safety Tip of the Month

The work of an electrician is very challenging and rewarding. Current knowledge of safe work practices and electrical laws, codes, and rules are essential to maintaining worker safety and ensuring installations meet the minimum requirements for safety to life and property.

Those learning the trade do not have the experience and knowledge required to make safe installation choices and must be supervised throughout their training period. [RCW 19.28.161](#)(3) and [WAC 296-46B-100](#) describe proper supervision. Proper supervision consists of the trainee being on the same job site and under the control of an appropriately certified supervising electrician.

Lack of proper supervision not only creates potentially hazardous conditions, it is illegal and could result in civil penalties being assessed to the contractor, administrator, and trainee.

[Senate Bill 5282](#) - Exempts from licensing requirements, and permit and inspection requirements under chapter 19.28 RCW, persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, and other entities for work limited to certain installations of security system wiring in one and two family dwellings.

You may also contact your legislator to share your opinion about any legislation by visiting the legislative website at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/LIC/Pages/hotline.aspx>.

Electrical Certification Examinations – 2014 Update Scheduled for July 1, 2015

We are in the process of updating all electrical examinations to the [2014 National Electrical Code®](#) (NEC®) and current versions of Washington electrical laws and rules – [RCW 19.28](#) and [WAC 296-46B](#). Unless this process is delayed, the newly revised exams will be in place on July 1, 2015. If you make your first attempt to pass an electrical administrator exam or are approved to take an electrician exam on or after July 1, 2015, your examination will be based on the 2014 NEC® and current Washington electrical laws and rules. If you re-take an exam on or after July 1, 2015 that you failed before July 1, 2015, you will be able to re-test using the 2008 version until your one year test cycle ends. Those who have not successfully passed the exam by June 30, 2016 will start a new testing session with the 2014 version.

The examinations are open-book and applicants may bring any unaltered original copyrighted material and copies of Washington electrical laws and rules (RCW 19.28 and WAC 296-46B) into the examination area.

Most exam questions are based on general code and electrical theory principles and tend to not change with revisions to the code. Many of the changes are editorial or reference changes. All of the questions are taken verbatim from the text in the reference material. Exam candidates must be familiar with the construction of the reference materials to be able to locate the correct answers quickly.

At times, the department receives comments that some of the questions for specialty exams do not apply to the work that the applicant performs in their specialty. All questions for specialty examinations are based on work that is allowed to be performed by the holder of the specialty certificate as described in [WAC 296-46B-920](#). Questions for each specialty were selected by industry representatives from each specialty to ensure they are related to the allowed scope of work.

Delayed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Rules to be Effective July 1, 2015

In the [May 2014](#) Electrical Currents newsletter, the Chief Electrical Inspector issued a policy delaying the implementation of three new requirements for PV systems. These delays were made due to concerns from manufacturers about their inability to provide equipment to comply with the new requirements. The rules scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2015 are:

- NEC® 690.11, Arc-Fault Circuit Protection (Direct Current)
- NEC® 690.12, Rapid Shutdown of PV Systems on Buildings
- NEC® 705.12(6), Wire Harness and Exposed Cable Arc-Fault Protection

If you would like to comment on the implementation of these rules, you may email the Electrical Program at ElectricalProgram@lni.wa.gov, attention: Rod Mutch.

Ugly Picture: Click on the picture to open a larger image. This “water-cooled” electrical conduit and load center was discovered by one of our licensed electrical contractors who was called out to a residential jobsite. It is not clear whether the water pipe or the electrical conduit was installed first, but these violations of NEC® 300.8, 110.12(B), 110.26(E), 312.5(C), and 110.3(B) were corrected.

Answer to Question of the Month: RCW [19.28.010](#)(1); [.031](#)(1); [.051](#); [.201](#)(1)(a); [.410](#)(1); [.440](#). To ensure that all electrical wires and equipment, and installations thereof are in strict conformity with approved methods of construction for **safety to life and property**, and to ensure that those engaged in the business of electrical installations are competent to engage in and supervise the work to **ensure proper safety and protection for the general public**.



This document may contain hyperlinks to internet web pages. To access this PDF document online, go to:

<http://www.ElectricalCurrents.lni.wa.gov>

Electrical Section Internet Address: <http://www.ElectricalProgram.Lni.wa.gov/>

This document is available in alternative formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. For assistance, call 1-800-547-8367. (TDD/TTY users, please call 360-902-5797.) Labor & Industries is an Equal Opportunity employer.